

NEWS SUMMARY

Young hints at more union laws

Trade unions that abuse their powers can expect further action against them, Lord Young of Graham, the Secretary of State for Employment said last night (Our Employment Affairs Correspondent writes).

He told the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators that reports continued of flawed balloting procedures, of evasive rule changes and mass discipline of union members who declined to put union solidarity before their jobs. The Government was considering further proposals for action.

Air fare progress

Weeks of lobbying by British transport ministers have succeeded in edging Europe closer to accepting greater competition in the air.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr Michael Spicer, the aviation minister, have succeeded in convincing Greece and Portugal that it could be in their interests to allow greater competition.

However Spain and Denmark are still refusing to yield in what they see as an essential battle to protect their own national airline.

Bribe duo convicted

Two businessmen were yesterday convicted of bribing Government officials at the Faslane submarine base on the Clyde, Strathclyde. They paid £22,000 to employees at the base as an inducement to allow the unauthorized removal of waste oil, Edinburgh High Court was told. They were also convicted of stealing waste oil.

John Nixon, aged 54, of Rainhill, and John Cockett, 43, of Scarborough, both Merseyside, had denied the charges.

Both men were remanded in custody.

Stamps controversy

The Post Office yesterday defended its Christmas discount stamp offer, as supplies began to dry up in post offices around the country.

Royal Mail spokesmen ruled out issuing new packs of the second class stamps and said the offer had been an overwhelming success.

They also rejected criticisms made by Mr Roy Hughes, the Labour MP for Newport East, who claimed the way the discounted booklets had been rationed negated any savings.

College is sued

A student is to make legal history by taking High Court action against the college at Cambridge University which sent him down, in an attempt to win reinstatement.

Mr Dominic Oakes, aged 21, of Burlington Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, believes his image as a folk-singer with long hair tied in a pony-tail and support for CND led college authorities to discriminate against him.

Sydney Sussex College has refused to comment. Mr Oakes, who had passed his first and second year examinations, is now studying mathematics at Warwick University.



An Eye for an Eye

Mr Robert Maxwell's tit-for-tat battle with *Private Eye* backfired yesterday when W H Smith, the country's largest news wholesaler, announced that it would not be distributing spoof copies of the satirical magazine due to be published by Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) today.

The announcement came just 24 hours after refusals by W H Smith and John Menzies, the second largest news wholesaler, to handle a bumper Christmas edition of *Private Eye* designed to replenish its coffers after the costly libel suit between the two old adversaries.

W H Smith said last night that the company's decision not to distribute MGN's *Not Private Eye* magazine had been taken on legal advice.

Jaguar plan to employ extra 300 workers

By Tim Jones

Jaguar Cars has announced plans to hire an extra 300 workers to boost production of its hugely successful new saloon from 280 models a week to 500.

Demand for the car is so strong that some customers are prepared to pay £4,000 more than the £25,000.

The company is also preparing to launch the new model in the United States and believes success there could mean even more new jobs.

The 11,000 Jaguar employees are the highest paid car workers in Britain, earning about £200 a week.

The management of Land Rover near by will decide in the next two days whether to announce hundreds of lay offs because of an overtime ban by 600 workers in the company's East works, in Solihull.

The Transport and General Workers' Union members want management to withdraw a warning of possible disciplinary action if there is a repeat of April's walkout.

£2.4m design workshop sets up jobs boost

By Charles Knevit

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of the Burton Group, yesterday announced that he was setting up a £2.4 million design workshop at Felling, Gateshead, to bring 300 new jobs to the North-east.

He was speaking to more than 200 businessmen and women at the annual meeting of Business in the Community, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne Civic Centre, chaired by the Prince of Wales, its president.

In his closing remarks to the meeting, the Prince referred to a report in *The Times* yesterday about the election victory of Mr Rod Hackney as the next president of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The report likened Mr Hackney to a terrorist and the Prince said that he had been told that dogs were the best deterrent to burglary. Terrorists were the best type of dog for the job, he said, when one of the delegates excused himself from the meeting because his home had been burgled.

Athens could be weak link in EEC initiative
Greeks stay away in terror drive

By Michael Evans
Whitehall Correspondent

A secret EEC document outlining the first comprehensive analysis of terrorist organizations and operations in Europe, was drawn up and agreed by Interior Ministers of the Trevi Group on terrorism yesterday.

Only one country, Greece, refused to put its signature to the document, underlining fears that Athens could re-

main the weak link in Europe's drive to combat the terrorist threat on a co-ordinated basis.

But Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, who chaired the Trevi Group meeting in London, said that this did not mean that Greece would become the back door route for terrorists planning to mount attacks against European targets. He admitted, though, that it was "sad" that Greece

could not agree to sign the document.

The Greek government did not even send a minister to the meeting. It was represented by a civil servant who apparently did not have the authority to sign anything.

The meeting yesterday was the final session on terrorism by the Trevi Group under the chairmanship of Mr Hurd. With Britain ending its six months in the presidency of the European Council of Min-

isters on December 31, the chairmanship will be handed over to the Belgians.

Mr Hurd, who has made great play of the fact that he wanted a strong British initiative on terrorism during the six months, appeared to be pleased with the achievements.

He said that the secret document contained an analysis of the terrorist threat which would help all EEC anti-terrorist agencies. The document will now be shown to

EEC foreign ministers to help form a concerted political strategy against terrorist activities.

Although he would not give details of what the document contains, he indicated that it listed the main terrorist organizations and networks which would have to be continually updated. He would not say whether the document named countries involved in state-sponsored terrorism.

Nurses to seek pay rises to keep staff

By Jill Sherman

Health unions are seeking a large basic increase for student nurses and auxiliaries in next year's pay award; to avoid dangerous shortages in nursing staff.

Yesterday, in their evidence to the Nurses and Midwives Pay Review body, staff side organizations made a claim for nurses to be brought into line with other public service workers.

They also sought an increase in additional payments, such as for working unsocial hours.

Next year's award should include a flat rate underpinning to favour the lower paid and percentage increases for other staff, whichever was the greater, they said.

Nursing leaders refused to put a figure on the rises needed but pointed out differences of 30 per cent between policemen and some nursing staff.

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said a police constable's starting salary was £7,752 a year while a qualified nurse with five years' experience received only £7,750.

Nursing leaders also gave a warning of the impending crisis in nurse recruitment because of difficulties in attracting and retaining staff.

Mr Hector Mackenzie, the staff side chairman, said that last year there was a 20 per cent fall in nurse recruits.

"Unless pay levels rise significantly there will not be enough nurses to care for patients in the future," he said.

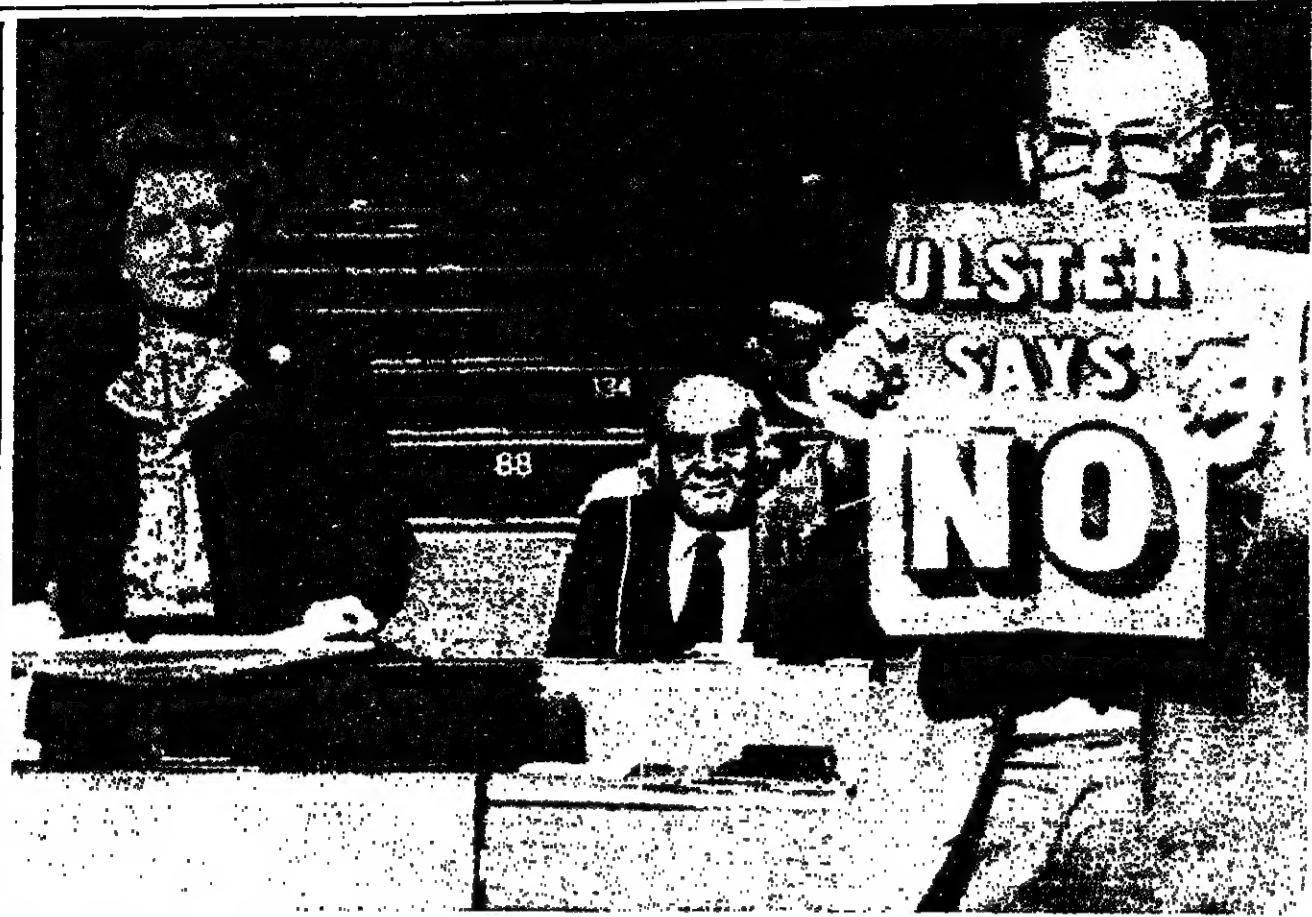
School Bill anger

The Association of County Councils, which represents nearly half the local education authorities in England and Wales, has joined the growing opposition to the Bill which would give the Government control over the negotiation of teachers' pay and conditions.

In a letter to MPs on the eve of today's debate on the Bill, the committee stage, the association, which speaks for nearly all the Conservative-controlled authorities, says its provisions "mark an immense move towards central control of the education system".

It condemns the Bill as inconsistent with the spirit of the 1944 Education Act and says there could be "no worse prescription for the future development of education".

It complains that the Bill "removes the employers from any decision-making machinery on such items of pay and other conditions as the Secretary of State may decide to keep to himself".



The Rev Ian Paisley interrupting Mrs Thatcher's speech at Strasbourg yesterday to protest over the Anglo-Irish agreement

Airbus sales windfall

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

The Government is set to cash in on the success of the Airbus A 320 short to medium-haul jet.

After this week's decision by Japan's All Nippon Airways to buy 10 A 320-200s, the Treasury is certain to get a good return on the £250 million it advanced to British Aerospace to help launch the project.

Airbus is now beyond the point at which it is certain to break even on sales of the A 320. That means that the Government will not only get the £250 million back quickly but that it will receive royalties on every other aircraft sold, bringing in many millions of pounds in unexpected revenue to Treasury funds.

British Aerospace has been able to tell ministers that with 389 firm orders so far and more certain before the aircraft's first flight in March next year, the first £50 million lump-sum repayment will definitely be made in 1990 with similar amounts to follow over the next three years.

The success of the A 320 is being used as a strong argument in British Aerospace's attempt to persuade the Government to provide a further £750 million in launch aid for the long-range A 340, with which it hopes to challenge the supremacy of Boeing.

Liverpool goes to war on Militant

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

The deposed leader of Liverpool City Council yesterday broke his self-imposed political silence to declare war on the Militant Tendency and its supporters within the city's Labour group.

Mr John Hamilton, who at 64 is the group's elder statesman, said that he will spearhead a revival of democratic socialism in a city he claims to have seen ripped apart by political extremists.

Two men he singled out for criticism were Mr Derek Hatton, who has just resigned as deputy council leader, and Mr Tony Byrne, who two days ago kept his position as Labour group leader by defeating a vote of no confidence.

Mr Hatton, said the man once considered to be his stooge, has become an irritant to extremists who now consider him a spent force and expendable. Mr Hamilton described the former Labour group leader in everything but name as "a not very bright but very ambitious and egotistical lover of the limelight".

Mr Tony Byrne, he said, was a former trainee Jesuit priest with Stalinist leanings, far more intelligent, dangerous and devious than Mr Hatton.

He criticized the party's national executive committee for worsening an already sensitive situation and urged it not to interfere further in local affairs.

Paisley in Euro protest

By Richard Owen

There was uproar yesterday when Mrs Margaret Thatcher's address to the European Parliament was disrupted by a protest by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party.

The Prime Minister had been on her feet for only a few minutes when Mr Paisley, a European MP, strode down to the rostrum and held a poster declaring "Ulster says no" in front of her face.

Mrs Thatcher ignored him and continued, to laughter and catcalls from the left-wing benches. Mr Paisley then shouted: "Mrs Thatcher, you are a traitor to the loyalist people of Northern Ireland for denying them the right to vote on the Anglo-Irish agreement."

His fellow Unionist, Mr John Taylor, waved a similar poster from the back of the chamber, and British Conservative Euro MPs tried to snatch it from him.

Mr Paisley was removed by half a dozen parliamentary ushers while M. Pierre Pflimlin, aged 79, President of the Parliament, suspended the sitting for 10 minutes and apologized to Mrs Thatcher.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister said that it had been beneath her dignity to notice the interruption, which was "a minor inconvenience" compared to some happenings at Westminster.

Mr Paisley was unrepentant afterwards, denouncing the European Parliament as a body dominated by "communists and Roman Catholics". He was later readmitted to the chamber.

Mr Paisley boasted that the Prime Minister had been "visibly scared", by his protest, though in fact she neither responded nor looked in his direction.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that Mr Paisley had disgraced the image of the Province and he warned of the damage being done to prospects of further investment.

He said that Mr Paisley's action typified his inability to resist the opportunity for a publicity stunt.

New lease of life for assault ships

By Peter Davenport
Defence Correspondent

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, announced yesterday that the Government had decided to retain the amphibious warfare capability of the Royal Marines.

The Commons statement was the outcome of a debate that has raged in the Ministry of Defence for three years. At present Britain's amphibious capability is centred around the assault ships Fearless and Intrepid, which played vital roles in the Falklands campaign.

As a first procurement step the Ministry of Defence yesterday placed a £250,000 contract with Swan Hunter for a feasibility study into extending the life of the two ships, which were due to be phased out in the mid 1990s. The study is expected to take about six months.

The two ships each weigh 11,000 tons and went into service in the mid-1960s. When built Intrepid cost £10.5 million and Fearless £11.25 million. Building replacements today would cost more than £100 million each.

The ships are equipped with landing craft for vehicles and men, up to 15 tanks, 23 trucks and five helicopters and are armed with missiles and Bofors guns and can carry up to 500 marines.

In 1981 it was announced that both ships were to be taken out of service - Intrepid in 1982 and Fearless in 1984 - but in February 1982 they were reprimed, a decision more than justified by their role in Falklands conflict.

Mr Younger also announced yesterday that the Ministry of Defence is inviting industry to participate in feasibility studies for a new design for their eventual replacement.

At the same time the ministry will also be looking at the concept of an aviation support ship.

Mr Younger told the Commons yesterday: "I know this decision will be very well received both in the House and by our NATO partners who attach considerable importance to the contribution of our amphibious capability." Parliament, page 4

Lawyers warn council over ban on Times

Glasgow's 59 Labour councillors have been warned by lawyers that they could face the threat of legal action, and the possibility of personal surcharges, if they continue to ban *The Times* and *The Sun* from public libraries.

But so far there has been no move to lift the ban. A number of Labour-controlled Scottish councils imposed bans on News International publications after the start of the Wapping print dispute nearly a year ago. But now most have quietly stopped the boycott.

A High Court ruling in England last month effectively ended similar bans by local authorities. The judge ruled them unlawful.

Scottish lawyers have advised councils that a similar view would likely be taken north of the border and that individual councillors could be liable to personal surcharges.

News International has so far made no move to begin an action in the Scottish courts.

Correction

Solicitors working for lay employers under proposed revised practice rules would not be able to do legal work for the public as reported on Monday, but the Law Society will re-examine the matter later.

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$29.50; Belgium 200; Canada \$25; Denmark 100; France 200; Germany 200; Greece 100; Hong Kong 200; India 200; Italy 200; Japan 200; Korea 200; Malaysia 200; Mexico 200; New Zealand 200; Norway 200; Pakistan 200; Portugal 200; Singapore 200; South Africa 200; Sweden 200; Switzerland 200; Taiwan 200; Thailand 200; USA \$1.75; Yugoslavia 200.

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'GP murdered first wife and cut his second wife's throat'

A family doctor drugged and murdered one wife and slit the throat of his next wife three years later, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Dr John Baksh, aged 53, killed his first wife, Ruby, to be free to marry his new lover, Madhu, Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, said.

"He then tried to murder Madhu three years later to solve his financial problems," he stood to gain £215,000 from her death.

After his arrest Dr Baksh is alleged to have told police who questioned him about the knife attack on his second wife: "It was the animal in me that made me do it."

Dr Baksh, a general practitioner, of Gloucester House, Bickley Road, Bromley, south-east London, denies murdering Ruby Baksh on New Year's Day 1983 and attempting to murder Madhu Baksh earlier this year.

Mr Green told the court that Dr Baksh had practised as a GP in Eltham and Chislehurst, south-east London, for several years. His first wife, Ruby, was a doctor in the practices. They had two children.

"In 1979 a young Indian woman doctor, Madhu, joined the practice. She was also married with two children, but separated from her husband," Mr Green said.

"The defendant found Madhu most attractive and wanted to have an affair, but she refused."

But she did say that she would be prepared to marry him if he divorced Ruby, Mr Green said.

But at the end of December 1982 Dr Baksh went on holiday to Spain with his wife.

"Early on New Year's Day the defendant drugged Ruby with a tranquillizer. He then

killed her by injecting her with morphine.

"He sent for an elderly local doctor and told him Ruby had been suffering from heart trouble. The Spanish doctor certified she had died from a heart attack," Mr Green said.

Ruby was buried in Spain and Dr Baksh returned to England "to continue his courtship of Madhu. In due course they were married."

Mr Green said that by this year Dr Baksh was in serious financial difficulties.

"On the afternoon of Saturday, January 4, he drugged

Dr Baksh told police it was the animal in him that made him attack his second wife

Madhu and then injected her with morphine.

"He put her in his car, drove to Keston Ponds in Kent and dragged her into a holly bush. He slit her throat and left her to die," Mr Green said.

Afterwards he allegedly drove Madhu's car into Bromley, then called the police claiming she had been abducted.

"Later that night her body was discovered by a passing naturalist who went for help," Mr Green said.

"She was taken to hospital and almost miraculously she recovered."

"Madhu told police that the defendant admitted he had, in fact, killed Ruby," Mr Green said.

He added: "Police went to Spain and arranged for Ruby's body to be exhumed. A pathologist confirmed her death was due to an overdose of morphine and not from any heart attack."

Dr Baksh told police that Ruby committed suicide by

injecting herself with morphine because she was unhappy over his association with Madhu.

Mr Green said that Dr Baksh had inherited some money on his first wife's death. When he married Madhu he took out several insurance policies. If Madhu died, he stood to get £215,000.

Dr Baksh was seen several times about the attack on Madhu, but he stuck to the story that his wife had been abducted by someone, Mr Green said.

He was eventually arrested and allegedly told police: "I plead guilty, I harmed my wife."

Mr Green claimed he insisted on speaking to officers before his solicitor arrived, telling them: "Please help me, I want to tell the truth. It was the animal in me that made me do it."

Describing himself as a good Christian, whose father was a clergyman, Dr Baksh allegedly said he had injected Madhu in her thigh with morphine. Then he had carried her downstairs and put her in the car, taking a kitchen knife with him.

He drove her to the ponds and put the knife to her throat, Mr Green said.

He said that although she was drugged, she had tried to push the knife away. "It was the bad in me, it was the animal in me that wanted to kill her," he allegedly said.

He asked police to give Madhu a note when she was in hospital, read: "My darling Madhu. I am very sorry for what happened - that I put a knife to your throat. I did not know what I was doing and hope you soon recover. Children are fine. Love, ever, John."

The trial continues today.



Dr John Baksh with his first wife Ruby (top) and his second wife, Madhu.

Euro link airport for sale

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Britain's nearest airport to the Continent is for sale with a price tag of £2.5 million.

Airlines and tour operators from around the world have been sent a glossy package offering them nearly 600 acres including hangars, passenger terminal, runways and maintenance areas, at Lydd airport in Kent.

The sale comes after the collapse of Hards Travel Service, a firm based in Solihull, Birmingham, which owned the airport and went into liquidation in August.

The company had run the airport for four years as a take-off point for 91,000 passengers a year taking charter trips, mainly to Austria.

Lydd airport was built in the 1950s and is the only post-war purpose built airport in southern England. For many years it was owned and used by Silver City Airlines, which made regular flights to Europe.

When Hards went into liquidation it owed £3 million and 5,000 holidaymakers were left stranded.

Now Mr Terry Carter, the liquidator, wants to sell the airport and recoup the losses.

The sale has been backed by local authorities including Shepway District Council, which owns part of the land and Mr Michael Howard, the local MP, who yesterday described the sale as "exciting".

Already more than 300 inquiries have been received from potential buyers.

And the Government's recent decision to give the Civil Aviation Authority powers to ban light aircraft and business jets from busy airports, such as Gatwick and Heathrow, is bound to add to the interest.

The Department of Transport is anxious to develop airports in the southern part of Britain, especially near London, for business use and the development of the Channel tunnel is expected to bring even greater demand for freight facilities in Kent.

Judges wait

Judgement was reserved in the Court of Appeal yesterday on an appeal by Margaret Livesey who is serving a life sentence for the murder of her son Alan, aged 14. The judges said they would consider new evidence highlighted in the BBC *Rough Justice* programme.

Simple language

Plain guide to obfuscation

In plain English, the users of nonsense speak were defeated yesterday. And had awards to prove it.

Lawyers were singled out for particular punishment for their economies of punctuation and interminable sentences.

Consider this from the National Westminster Bank: "The Bank may without any consent from the Indemnifier and without affecting the Indemnifier's liability hereunder renew vary or determine any accommodation given to the Debtor or any other person including any signatory of this Guarantee and Indemnity in respect of the liabilities hereby secured and grant time or indulgence to or compound with the Debtor or any such person and this Guarantee and Indemnity shall not be dis-

charged nor shall the Indemnifier's liability under it be affected by anything which would not have discharged or affected the Indemnifier's liability if the Indemnifier had been a principal debtor to the Bank."

The Golden Bull Awards, run jointly by the Plain English Campaign and the National Consumer Council, were yesterday presented by Esther Rantzen, of the television programme, *That's Life*.

Exeter Health Authority, which did not attend, won an award for the following: "As the new services for the Elderly Confused begin to take shape, it is closely felt by those involved in it's (sic) development that a unique opportunity exists."

"It is in this spirit that focus

has been attentioned towards the conduct and nature of a needs assessment in providing the navigational guidance to a new service if it is to begin to truly reflect the locality needs of the elderly."

The Department of Education and Science, Kent County Council, the Halifax Building Society, the Motor Insurers' Bureau and Xtel Statistical Services Ltd also received Golden Bull Awards.

Plain English Awards, for clearly written, well laid out documents, went to the Midland Bank, the London and Edinburgh Insurance Company, The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, the Health Education Council, Westminster City Council, the DHSS and the Department of Employment.

Scheme to check on solicitors' ability

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors doing civil litigation should have to be accredited as to their competence and experience before being allowed to do legal aid work or to qualify for other "privileges" under proposals from the London Solicitors' Litigation Association.

The association, which represents 400 solicitors practising in civil litigation from the suburban sole practitioner to the big city firm, says such a scheme is needed to ensure the public is served by "competent practitioners".

In the field of litigation a "considerable amount of public money is expended on the legal profession," it says in a submission to the Law Society.

"It cannot be considered unreasonable for the paymasters to demand some evidence of reasonable competence as a condition for provision of these moneys."

The association proposes a national scheme or association of litigation specialists, qualified by practical experience and obliged to undergo compulsory continuing education courses.

The scheme would embrace all areas of civil litigation with solicitors in one of two groups: general civil litigation practitioners, as usually found in smaller firms, of which it is estimated there are some 15,000 qualified solicitors.

And second, the expert—usually found in larger firms and thought to total 1,000—who builds up expertise in a specific field, such as insurance and banking.

The general practitioners would have to show that they had spent at least one quarter of every year in the past three years on civil litigation; and the experts that they were engaged full-time.

Elected members would then qualify for certain privileges: only they would be allowed to conduct civil litigation under the legal aid scheme, including personal injury work; and only firms with a partner or admitted solicitor as a member would be able to advertise their expertise.

The proposals, drawn up by Mr Stephen Jakobi, the association president, come in the wake of the report from a government scrutiny team.

Christmas cheer for 2 winners

Two housewives share yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000 and are planning special Christmas treats.

Mrs Sandra Potter, aged 24, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has played the Portfolio Gold game since it started in *The Times*.

"I am very happy to have won," she said.

Mrs Potter said she will spend the winnings on Christmas presents for her children.

Mrs Eunice Wymer, aged 55, of Great Cressingham, Thetford, Norfolk, has played the game for the last three months.

"I could not believe my luck. I checked the numbers several times before I was sure that I had won," she said.

When asked how she intended spending the prize money, Mrs Wymer said: "I am going to have a lovely Christmas party."

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Plea against dismissal after marriage

Mrs Olga Longden, a college official, yesterday asked the High Court to stop Bedfordshire County Council dismissing her after marrying her vice-principal.

She claims she was treated "outrageously" when the council decided to dismiss her as chief administration officer at Barnfield College, Luton, in June, at the request of the governors, who said it was "inappropriate" for her to work alongside her husband, Mr Wilson Longden, aged 50.

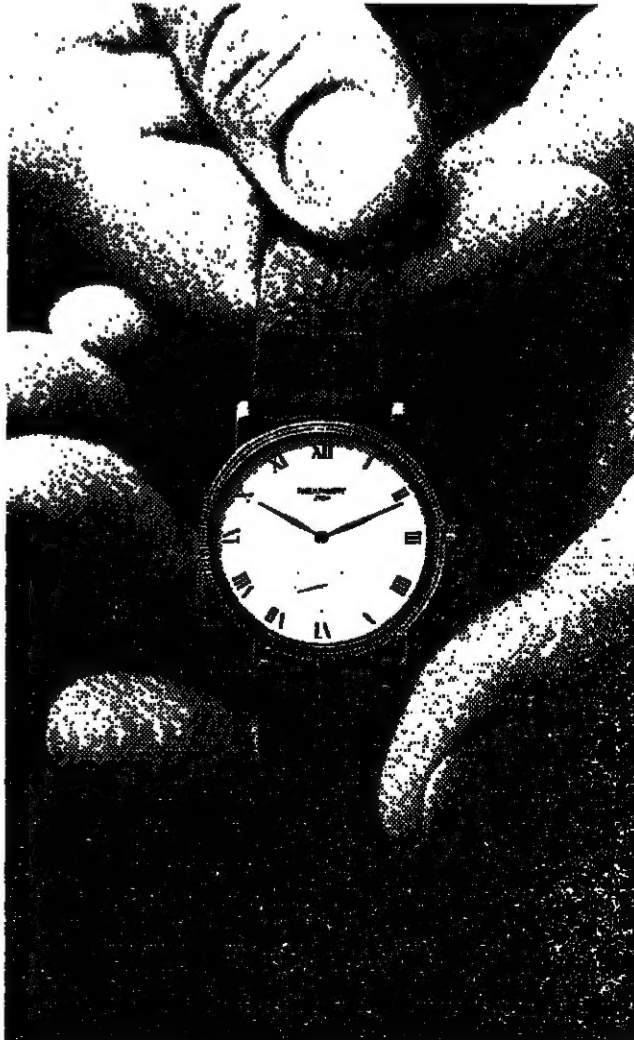
Mrs Longden, aged 44, of Turpin Drive, Luton, is seeking injunctions restraining the council from dismissing her because of her marriage and forcing them to complete the grievance procedure, which she claims was never properly heard.

The council claims there were managerial reasons for her dismissal.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

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PARLIAMENT

MPs pile on the pressure in Nimrod's support

Ministers came under pressure from all sides during Commons question time to buy the British Nimrod airborne early warning system for the RAF and not the rival Boeing Awacs.

It was made clear that a Cabinet decision still had to be made but that an announcement was likely before Christmas. A suggestion that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had already come down in favour of the Boeing system was rejected.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, said during Prime Minister's question time that failure to proceed with the Nimrod early warning system would be seen as an act of industrial surrender and would undermine British efforts to remain at the forefront of high technology.

He asked for an assurance that the decision whether to order Nimrod or the American Awacs for the RAF would be made by the Cabinet as a whole. Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, answering for the Prime Minister who was in Strasbourg, said that Mr Steel would not expect him to answer his first point.

"I realize that the Liberal Party is at some distance from Cabinet government but a decision of this magnitude would necessitate the proper consideration that he mentions."

Dr Keith Hampson (Leeds North West, C) asked Mr Biffen to convey to the Prime Minister that there would be deep concern on all sides of the House if a decision not to buy Nimrod were made.

Already £800 million had been spent and Nimrod had been designed for a wider job than Awacs, which would cost £1 billion to buy.

Mr Biffen said that he would pass on those comments to the Prime Minister.

Mr Douglas Hoyle (Warrington North, Lab) said that the Leader of the House had said in the Observer last Sunday that it was reported that the Prime Minister was firmly in the Boeing camp, and as a decision is soon to be made on a system and many jobs are at risk, and the future of many of the British technology industry, will Mr Biffen ask the Prime Minister when she returns to make a statement making it clear whether she is backing for Britain or backing for Boeing?

Mr Biffen: "The House has a right of partiality which I reject." This was a major decision with

DEFENCE

industrial and defence consequences for Britain and it would be taken in the appropriate and detached fashion necessary.

Earlier, Mr Archibald Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, also refused to comment on the merits of the competing systems.

Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East, C) said that he was in the final stages of competition and I prefer not to comment on the relative merits of the two tenders.

Mr Hamilton: I have very much taken on board what he is saying, but we are in the final stages of competition and I prefer not to comment on the relative merits of the two tenders.

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not believe everything he reads in newspapers. No final decision has been made.

Mr Thomas Saville (Bolton West, C) said that there are no problems with Nimrod. It would be madness to give away British industry's lead in this technology and crazy to give yet another monopoly to Boeing.

Mr Hamilton: We have to take account of the RAF and of value for money. No final decision has been made.

Mr Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles, Lab) suggested that in Nimrod the "dutton" problem had been overcome and that targets could now be clearly identified. "Will Mr Younger make a statement about the success of the mission he went on in Nimrod?"

Mr Hamilton: The Secretary of State will refer to those matters when he makes the announcement.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said that many Conservative MPs are very much in support of Nimrod and GEC Avionics.

Before making a final decision, will he ensure that the Secretary of State is aware of the high technology of the latest mark Nimrod.

Mr Hamilton: The Secretary of State will take into account Mr Densil Davies, Opposition spokesman on defence. While commenting on the merits of the two systems, the Secretary of State has commented. He said on December 5 that both systems, Nimrod and Awacs, now work, so there is no case for buying American, but a valid case for buying British.

Mr Hamilton: No. There are still many different assessments to make on the different systems. No final decision has been made.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, whose return to the Commons after his visit to the United States was greeted with ironical cheers from the Conservative benches, questioned Mr Biffen about Iranian arms deals.

He asked whether, in the light of the European Community agreement on anti-terrorism policies and common necessity, the Government was taking measures to ensure against London's being used as a location for making arms deals similar to those between the United States Administration and Iran.

Mr Biffen: I have no reason to believe that there is a situation which validates his anxiety.

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Mr John Biffen gets an early warning from the House of Commons.

Study ordered on future of Navy's assault ships

The Government has decided to retain an amphibious force to the longer term and as a first step is having a feasibility study made of the future of the assault ships used by the Royal Marines.

The shipbuilding industry is being asked to study designs for replacements.

Announcing that to the Commons, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said: At present the Royal Navy's amphibious lift is centred on the assault ships HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid.

As a first procurement step, we have today placed a contract with Swan Hunter for a feasibility study to extend the life of these ships.

At the same time we are inviting industry to participate in feasibility studies for a new design option for their replacement by building new ships.

In parallel with this work, we shall also study the feasibility of providing helicopter lift, including the concept of an aviation support ship.

I know this decision will be very well received both in the House and by our Nato partners, which attach considerable importance to the contribution of our amphibious capability. The steps I am announcing today will secure its future.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C), who will be the Minister for the Northern flank, said he hoped the study he mentioned would take place as quickly as possible.

Will he confirm that the landing at San Carlos in 1982 would never have taken place if Britain had not had these sort of landing ships? Does he agree that if Britain is to have a strong conventional capability it must certainly include a proper assault ship capability?

Mr Younger: I entirely agree. I share his appreciation of the great importance of an amphibious capability for our defence posture and our Nato contribution. This announcement will be a major reassurance that we intend to continue that capability.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, while warmly welcoming this decision, may I ask how he

ROYAL NAVY

thinks it is possible to extend the life of Fearless and Intrepid? Regarding the new ship designs, is this a much cheaper ship and is he going to have amphibious lift capacity with a flat top or exactly what designs are envisaged?

Mr Younger: Regarding the life of Intrepid and Fearless, this study will be looking into the feasibility of extending their life, should that be the preferred option of the Government. Clearly, the calculation of cost and feasibility will be relevant in making that decision.

Regarding the possibility of new vessels, this study will be looking into the most effective way of making a new vessel to fulfil this role.

Mr Anthony Buck (Colchester North, C) Many MPs on both sides of the House are devoted to the concept of maintaining a substantial amphibious capability. Will he reassure us that the life of the old ships will be able to be retained until we have new ones ready to take their place?

Mr Younger: Yes, I can give that assurance. The expected life of Intrepid and Fearless stretches into the mid 1990s and that should give us ample time to work out the best method of replacing them.

Mr Edward Garrett (Walsley, Lab) This decision will be welcomed anywhere more than on Tyneside. But when the feasibility study is completed, will Swan Hunter be paid? In the past there has been grave doubt as to whether they got full value for the time, money and effort spent on such studies.

When the study is complete I would like to see two new vessels being built and he should consider bringing those orders to Tyneside.

Mr Younger: That cannot be determined until I have the results of the study. I am pleased that Swan Hunter competed for this feasibility study contract and they have now got it. I can certainly assure him that they will be paid for their work in accordance with the contract terms.

Mr Nicholas Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne East, Lab) I welcome the announcement of the feasibility study at Swan Hunter, but they were treated pretty shabbily after doing a similar study on the AOR (auxiliary oil replenishment vessel). What guarantees does Tyneside have that their history will not repeat itself and that expediency will not cut across rational decision-making?

Mr Younger: I take exception to his suggestion that Swan Hunter has not been treated well over the AOR. Although they were not successful in the competition for the AOR Type 1, they were offered an inside track for the AOR Type 2.

Mr Patrick Wall (Beverly, C) How long will this study take? The ships are ageing very rapidly.

Mr Younger: I appreciate his concern. The MoD is taking the appropriate steps to decide how best this capability can be continued in plenty of time to make sure whatever replacement is decided upon will be ready when Intrepid and Fearless reach the end of their useful lives.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab) When does he expect to be in a position to place an order?

Mr Younger: We will make a decision on placing an order when I have the results of the feasibility study, which I hope will be available towards the end of next year. We will make a decision in very good time for the new ships or the extended life ships to be available and ready when Intrepid and Fearless run out of time.

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake, C) While I very much welcome this statement, though it is long overdue, may I press him more closely on the timescale? When will we have stripped out all the old ships, just when can we expect the new ships?

Mr Younger: It is our intention that the new or refurbished ships will be ready by the mid 1990s when the present ships reach the end of their useful lives. I think that is sensible planning.

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Tory onslaught on Kinnock defence policy

Mr Neil Kinnock and Labour's defence policy came under fire from Conservative MPs on his return from the United States.

Mr David Amess (Basildon, C), during Prime Minister's question time, asked Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, to ask the Prime Minister when she returned from Strasbourg to restate the Government's policy of unilateral disarmament.

To protests from the Labour benches, he said: "Will Mr Biffen ask her quickly to restate the damage done following statements made in the United States giving the impression that we will abandon our allies and renege on our Nato commitments?"

Mr Biffen said that he would convey that point to Mrs Thatcher.

"It must be a matter for the judgement of the House to assess just how influential was Mr Kinnock's visit. These are matters which are a fair point in the political debate which commences now and will continue until the time of the general election."

"We hope that the Labour Party set out their non-nuclear defence policy in this country as they have sought to do in the United States because we be-

lieve the popular judgement will lie with us."

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) Contrary to the view being propagated in some quarters, would Mr Biffen confirm that indeed the Government is more than happy for the House and the country to spend as much time as it likes discussing defence and the nation's security?

Mr Biffen said that there could be no question of there being as much time as the House liked on these matters because of other commitments, but he agreed that defence would be a central feature at the forthcoming election.

"We know perfectly well what a non-nuclear policy in the hands of Labour implies. We know the extent to which it is a retreat from the socialism of Aneurin Bevan and that the dependable alternative that we offer would be decisive in the outcome of that election."

Mr William Cash (Stafford, C) said that this Government had a policy of ensuring that this country was properly defended, unlike the policies the Leader of the Opposition had been perpetrating in the United States.

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Promotion for blacks 'by merit'

Soldiers of ethnic origin would want to gain promotion on merit and not because there was discrimination in their favour, it was said during question time in the Commons.

The issue was raised by Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab), who asked for a statement on progress of ethnic monitoring in the Army.

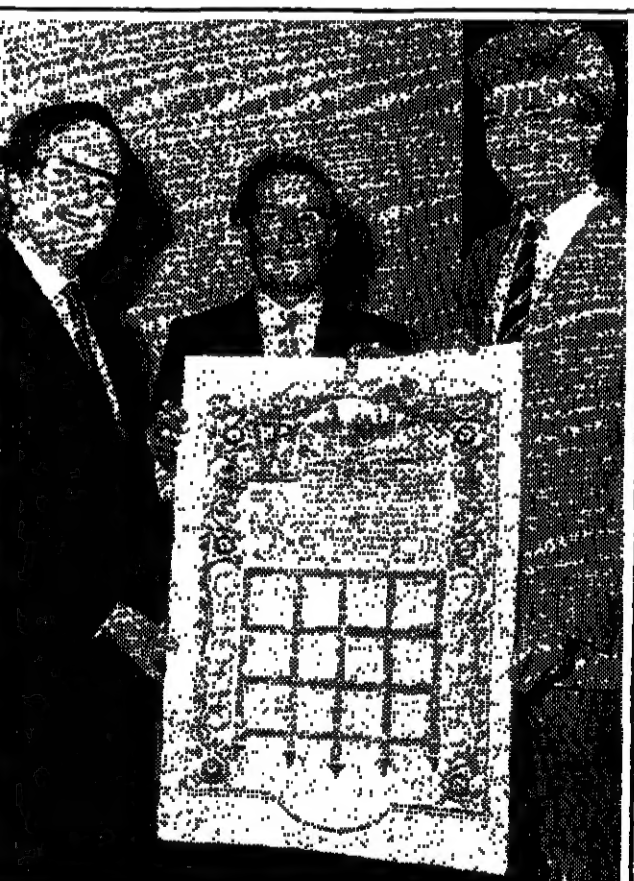
Mr Roger Freeman, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said that arrangements were well in hand for the Army, in common with other Services, to introduce ethnic monitoring.

Mr Dubs asked how the minister answered criticism that that would not cover possible discrimination against black soldiers over promotion.

How would monitoring deal with instances where soldiers wanted to join the Brigade of Guards but were diverted by recruiting officers to other regiments?

Mr Freeman said that promotion in the Armed Services, now as in the past, was on merit, aptitude and motivation. Monitoring among those already in the Services was considered unnecessary.

There were no examples known to the Ministry of Defence of racial discrimination. Also, it would be inappropriate because it would be divisive.



Mr Alan Beith (left), Mr James Hamilton and Mr Kenneth Hargreaves holding the illuminated address that they are to present to the Pope in Rome on behalf of an inter-denominational and cross-party group of 100 backbenchers. The address thanks him for the lead he has taken in defending the family and the right to life.

Select committees dispute

Constitutional clash looms

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A serious constitutional clash between Downing Street and Parliament was heralded yesterday in a report which flatly rejected the arguments behind Government's proposed instructions to civil servants not to answer select committee questions about their conduct.

The Treasury and Civil Service committee made clear that if the Government did not think again civil servants who obeyed the instructions could be reported to the House of Commons for contempt.

The proposed instructions were tagged on to the end of the Government's response to the defence committee's investigation into the Western airbase, during which MPs grilled Sir Robert Armstrong, the Secretary of the Cabinet, but were denied access to other senior civil servants at the heart of the affair, including Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary.

The forcefully argued report will provide further ammunition for select committee chairmen, who are determined to resist any attempt by the Government to curb

committees' powers and who are now negotiating with the Government.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, has given an undertaking that the instructions will not be issued formally until both the Liaison and the Treasury and Civil Service committees had considered the matter.

The report rejects the Government's assertion that select committees derive their powers through the accountability of ministers to Parliament, stating that they "exercise their formal powers to inquire into policy and actions of departments because Parliament is sovereign and has established the select committees to monitor government departments on its behalf, giving them the traditional powers to send for persons and papers."

It goes on to outline how witnesses who refuse to appear before committees or answer their questions can be reported to the House and held guilty of contempt and continues, in a key sentence: "The proposal by the Government...to inhibit civil servants in the scope of the evidence they give to select

committees, though it might make the use of this procedure more frequent, cannot alter the underlying position."

The report asks the Government to confirm that it is not seeking to prevent civil servants answering questions on actions undertaken with ministerial approval and in accordance with government policy.

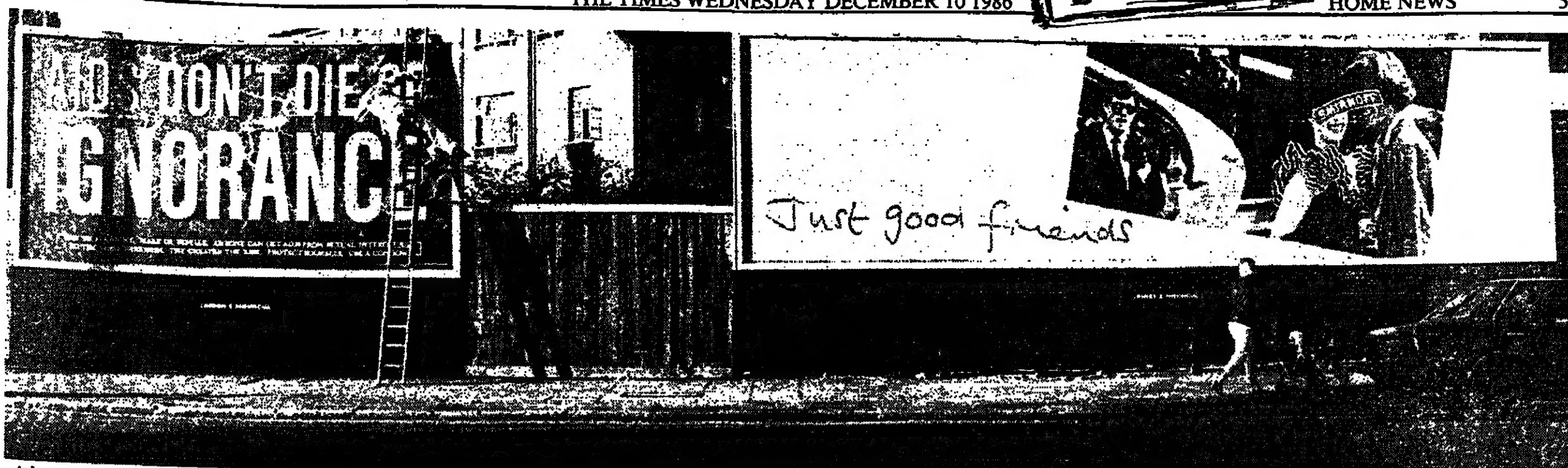
It assumes that the government instructions apply to the conduct, or "misconduct", of civil servants undertaken without ministerial knowledge, and reassures select committees' rights to question civil servants on "the very rare occasions" where investigation of such conduct is thought necessary.

Government arguments to the contrary are dismissed as unconvincing and the report concludes: "Any instruction which, however rarely, operated so as to make this more difficult is certainly undesirable."

Launching the report yesterday, Mr Austin Mitchell, a Labour member of the committee, described the Government's arguments as "downright wrong."

Articles on brain death deplored

Sunday newspaper articles seeming to



A huge anti-Aids poster in Blackfriars Road, Southwark, south London, provides a contrast of messages for a passing mother. The Aids poster urges all sexually active people to protect themselves by using condoms (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Clashes of images in Aids drive

By Ronald Faux

Advertisers paying premium rates for prime poster sites may find themselves in the shade as the Government's anti-Aids campaign takes off.

Clashes of message are likely as the blunt posters being put up by the Department of Health compete for attention with more sophisticated advertising campaigns. "Unfortunately," was how a director of Young and Rubicam, the agency that produced Sid, described the juxtaposition of posters in Blackfriars Road, Southwark, south London.

He said that agencies normally try to ensure, in their carefully thought out campaigns, that posters do not clash with their neighbours.

"We simply have to accept that there will be some difficult placings with the Aids campaign. It is so essential to get the message across about the dangers of the disease that normal advertising campaigns simply have to take second place."

Other advertising designers agreed that the Aids advertisements would have to be accepted as a public necessity however much they disturbed the image other posters were trying to create. One optimist commented: "It might not be entirely bad for us or damaging. After all, the contrast between these two adverts is so stark and odd it might help both campaigns. It is certainly hard to ignore."

Slimming aid products are criticized

A grapefruit pill and a gel which both claim to help slimmers are today criticized in the Advertising Standards Authority's monthly report.

The authority expresses surprise that "after more than 100 years of compulsory education" it is still possible for buyers to be so gullible.

The report says that at a time when half the adult population seems to have just completed a diet or is about to embark on one, the market is "as populated as ever with peddlers of the still numerous pseudo-scientific products and services" of the type once sold by Victorian quacks.

Thirteen slimming products were brought to the authority's attention by disgruntled consumers and 12 complaints were upheld.

Only one company was able to justify its claims and that was as a result of the number of testimonials received rather than evidence of the efficacy of the product.

NSPCC report

Child sex abuse cases more than doubled

The number of children sexually abused increased by more than 125 per cent during the past year, a report released yesterday states.

The report, compiled by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, also highlights a rise in other forms of cruelty, including a 68 per cent increase in children who were seriously or fatally injured.

The society further disclosed that an estimated four children died every week of abuse and neglect. And, according to the society's statistics, about 9,114 children were physically hurt by their parents last year.

Reports of physically injured children had increased by 28 per cent, while those who suffered general emotional abuse and neglect, not involving physical injury, shot up by 71 per cent.

Overall, the numbers of children placed on local child authority registers kept by the society in England and Wales showed a 42 per cent rise.

Dr Alan Gilmore, director of the society, said he was concerned about the rise in

reports of children who sustained serious or fatal injuries as a result of abuse at the hands of their parents.

"This aspect is particularly sad and worrying. However, there is now considerable public and professional awareness to the possibility of children being abused in an extreme way."

"There has been an upsurge in reporting of child abuse everywhere in recent months, especially by the public. This has obviously been a significant factor in these figures," he said.

Less than half of the 1,586 children on the society's child abuse register were living with both natural parents at the time of the abuse.

Only 23 per cent of the neglected children, 32 per cent of the emotionally abused and 39 per cent of the physically injured were living with their natural parents.

"Marital problems" were most often recorded as the stress factor which may have precipitated sexual and emotional abuse. Statistics showed a dramatic 125 per cent in-

crease in reports of sexual abuse.

"Inability to deal with normal child behaviour" was recorded most frequently as the cause of physical injuries to children, while "inability to respond to the maturational needs of the child" was thought to be the main cause of neglect of children.

External stress factors such as unemployment, debts and poor housing were recorded quite frequently by workers, but were not judged as important as parent-child relationship problems.

Dr Gilmore praised the vigilance of parents, the public and professionals who had come forward to report cruelty to children.

He said: "More children are being protected. But we cannot escape the reality - so many children continue to suffer. Neglect can scar for life and it can kill."

The society is talking to the Government about setting up a national register of child abuse cases, and Dr Gilmore said more accurate statistics were essential.

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Blyth Valley troubles

Pair who are worlds apart

By David Sapped and Howard Foster

Mr Ronnie Campbell, an unemployed miner, retains a deep pride in the fact that his grandfather took part in the hunger marches of the 1930s and Mr John Ryman, a barrister, remains equally proud of his Oxford degree and love of horses.

Both are members of the same constituency Labour party - Mr Ryman is the MP for the marginal seat of Blyth Valley and Mr Campbell his neighbour - but other similarities are at best coincidental.

And, after Mr Ryman's allegations that Mr Campbell is a member of Militant Tendency, there is a gulf between them which appears unbridgeable.

The MP's threat to call a by-election in a constituency where Labour's majority is little more than 3,000 over the Alliance has prompted the party to despatch a senior official to Tyneside to conduct an inquiry into local links with the left-wing organization.

Mr Ryman, aged 56, and a former Harmsworth Law Scholar, decided to retire at the next election amid allegations that the local party had been infiltrated by Militant.

The one-vote majority Mr Campbell achieved in the

weekend selection for Labour's next general election candidate put the little-known north-east constituency in the centre of the political map.

Mr Campbell, aged 42, roundly rejects accusations that he is a member of Militant, although he admits to being "a left-wing democratic socialist" and an admirer of both Mr Derek Hutton and Mr Arthur Scargill - he proved his credentials by being fined £75 for breach of the peace when, as NUM chairman of the now closed Bates colliery, he grabbed a policeman on a picket line during the miners' strike.

The Militant tag still persists although he points out he is a practising Roman Catholic with six children - religious views that scarcely tally, he says, with a Trotskyite approach.

However, Mr Ryman insists that, even if Labour's prospective candidate is not a member of Militant itself, he has become little more than "a stooge" of supporters of the organization who have taken control of the local party.

Mr Ryman, who was educated at Pembroke College, Oxford, and called to the Bar in 1957, has not been free of

controversy. Local party workers have accused him of spending too little time in the constituency, dismissing his constituency secretary without apparent reason and cancelling local surgeries.

A well-known moderate on the Labour back benches, he entered Parliament in the 1974 election. His campaigns have included efforts to save Bates colliery, where Mr Campbell worked until its closure earlier this year.

He has accused Militant of "physical intimidation" of local Labour party workers and of falsifying branch membership numbers to gain more seats on the constituency party executive. He also says the organization has packed meetings with its own supporters from non-existent groups and fixed the reselection process to prevent moderates from being nominated.

Mr Campbell, who entered politics 17 years ago as a councillor on the old Blyth council, failed last year when he contested Mr Ryman's reselection. He also attempted, unsuccessfully, to get the Labour nomination for the Berwick seat this summer.

"I am not a member of Militant and never have been," he says.

Violence hits clergy in cities

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The growing incidence of crime and violence directed against the clergy in some run-down inner city areas is to be raised at national level in the Church of England by the Bishop of Whitley, the Right Rev Gordon Bates.

He has collected evidence from the area for which he is responsible, including central Middlesbrough, Cleveland, of a rising level of personal attacks in the past five years. "The dog collar is no longer much protection," he said yesterday.

Breaking and entering church property, including vicarages, was the most common form of crime the church encountered, followed by vandalism, and then by street violence.

The bishop said many clergy had had to fortify their premises with high walls topped by broken glass and floodlights, and in some cases barbed wire.

But the problem appears to be patchy. In the English city with the highest level of clergy in the inner areas, Liverpool, a Roman Catholic spokesman said there did not appear to be an increase in violence towards the clergy on the streets.

The central authorities of the Church of England are only just becoming aware of the problem, and there is growing interest in training clergy to defuse potentially violent situations.

The latest clerical victim, the Rev Alan Hughes, of Kirkbymoorside, North Yorkshire, recently lost £650 worth of lead from his church roof. He is installing razor-wire, non-set paint and infra-red detection devices.

Highland relic may be saved

By Gavin Bell
Arts Correspondent

A Scottish museum has been given an opportunity to save a Celtic bronze armband, found locally at the turn of the century, from being exported by an American dealer.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, has recommended that an application to export the Achavarril Armband be deferred until May 2 next year, to allow bids by public collections to keep it in Britain.

The leading contender is the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, supported by the local district council, which hopes to raise the market value of £100,000 before the deadline.

The armband, dating from the first or second century, was kept for generations in the Dunrobin Castle museum.

However the Duke of Sutherland sold it at auction in London last summer for £67,000 - far outstripping the Inverness museum's bid of £24,000. It was subsequently acquired by an American dealer.

Mrs Catherine Niven, curator of the museum, said yesterday that the local council had since promised £75,000 towards its purchase, and she hoped the balance could be raised from government and private sources.

The well-preserved armband, weighing almost two pounds, is decorated with an abstract pattern and is likely to have been worn by a Celtic chieftain to display status and power.

At least 16 similar artefacts are known to be in collections in Britain, but each is unique as the metalworkers used individual cast moulds - and there is none in the Scottish Highlands where they were made.

Prison drug tests to fight smugglers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Drug barons who put pressure on prisoners going on home leave to bring narcotics into jails, face a new weapon.

The Home Office has bought two drug detection systems for use in the medical departments at Risley Remand Centre, Warrington, and Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

The system, Syva Emit-st, is used for urine analysis in many penal institutions in the United States and by British customs officers to detect drug smugglers.

Its use in British penal establishments on people who are ill to discover whether they are on drugs or to test addicts, is voluntary. The Prison Officers' Association is seeking some sort of sanction for prisoners who do not agree to take the test.

The association says that about half of Britain's prison population is caught up in drug abuse and only tough action by the Government will begin to correct it.

The association says that pressure is put by drug barons on prisoners about to be allowed home for readjustment before release, to bring back a supply of drugs.

It adds that the prisoner could be afraid to return, will abscond and get into further trouble; he will bring the drugs back; or he will return empty-handed and then have to be segregated for his own protection. Youngsters are also being turned into addicts, according to the association.

Emit-st's manufacturer, Syva UK, claims that on-site urine testing in the United States has left some prisons drug-free. The detectors will fit into brief cases and can test any one of 10 drugs in about 90 seconds.

"It's two years since we produced a report calling for action and all we have seen during that time is a gradual deterioration in what was already a horrific situation," Mr Phil Hornsby, the association's assistant general secretary, said.

"Drugs have become the main form of currency in prisons and as organized searching has not halted the upward trend, new measures will have to be considered to stop the rot."

He wants a detection system to stop drugs entering prisons. Some sort of test is also sought to establish whether a prisoner has been taking drugs. That is the only way to prove involvement in abuse, Mr Hornsby says.

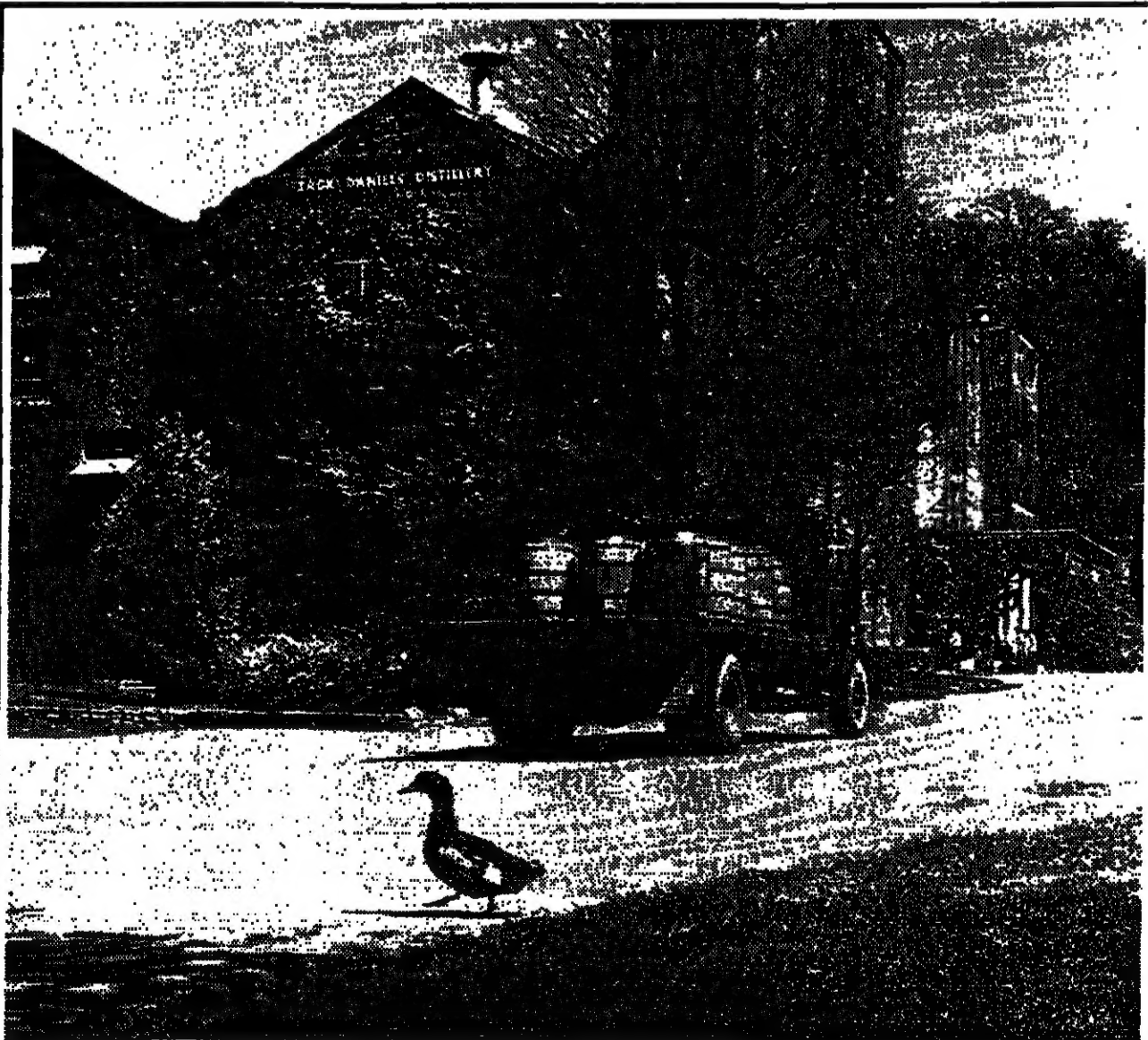
"The penalty for someone judged to be a drug abuser should be losing remission of sentence and that would put a useful anti-drug abuse weapon into our hands."

Mr Hornsby has much sympathy for the young person, and his family who find themselves caught up in the drug scene.

He said: "It's difficult enough for the offender's family to have to cope with the fact that an offspring is detained for committing a criminal offence, but when he returns to them a fully-fledged addict this is an additional burden they should not have to carry."

● Boy George, the pop singer, has disclosed in *Woman* magazine that he decided to give up heroin because he could not bear to see the hurt he was causing his mother.

He said: "She knew something was wrong. She never really came out with it, but one day she just burst into tears and it was terrible."



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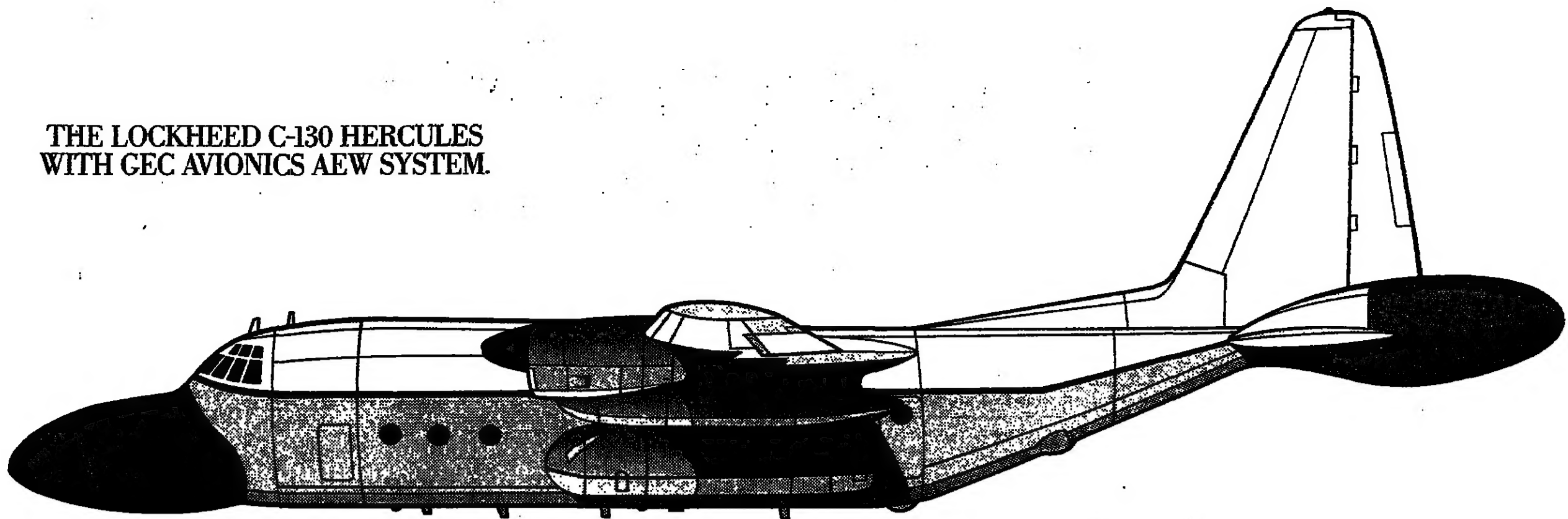


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It is not the AEW Nimrod you see above but a potential off-spring, the C-130.

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That would be a great loss.

Sales of the C-130 are already being negotiated in no fewer than 28 overseas countries. Export business that is worth, quite literally, billions of pounds.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Poland says no to Kennedy trip

Warsaw (Reuters) - Poland yesterday ruled out a visit by Senator Edward Kennedy during which he intended to meet Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader.

The government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, told reporters: "The senator's visit to Poland, no matter what his intentions are, is not possible because of the overloaded schedule of previously planned political events."

Senator Kennedy's office in Washington said he had intended to arrive in Warsaw on December 22 and to leave on Christmas Day after visiting Mr Walesa in Gdansk.

The main purpose of his trip, apart from meeting Mr Walesa, was to present the 1986 Robert Kennedy Memorial award to the former Solidarity underground leader Mr Zbigniew Bujak and the dissident intellectual Mr Adam Michnik.

Helsinki Aids

Helsinki (Reuters) - Several Africans studying in Finland have returned home suffering from Aids, Dr Jukka Sui of the Helsinki Aids Hospital said.

He said tests carried out in the past two years on about 60 African students, mainly from Zambia, which shares projects with Finland, showed that 10 per cent carried the Aids virus.

Those who had returned to Africa were suffering from actual symptoms of Aids while others showed minor or no symptoms.

Envoy returns

Vienna - Austria has decided to send its Ambassador to Israel back to Tel Aviv after withdrawing him earlier this autumn (Richard Bassett writes).

Herr Otto Pleinert was recalled to Vienna after the Israeli decision not to replace immediately their Ambassador to Vienna, Mr Michael Elizar, who has retired.

The decision was widely seen as reflecting Israel's disenchantment with the Austrians after the election of Dr Kurt Waldheim as Austria's President last summer.

Sikh wife charges

Delhi - Mrs Kuldeep Kaur, wife of Dr Paul Bedi, the Sikh mission of Britain's Asian Conservatives, is being investigated for possible involvement in a plan to blow up a Hindu temple, according to the United News of India news agency (Michael Hamlyn writes).

She is also being accused of having an elaborate plan for assassinations, train derailments and attacks on army convoys, and is said to have met "hardcore terrorists" here, the agency reports.

British mechanic to be deported from US

Los Angeles - Mr Harvey Rader, a British Rolls-Royce mechanic, once charged with the murder of two families in California, has been ordered deported to Britain (Ivor Davis writes).

Mr Rader, aged 44, who runs a car-hire business in a suburb of Los Angeles, was arrested by immigration and naturalization agents who accused him of lying about a 1977 robbery conviction in Britain when he applied for permanent residence status in the US in 1980.

Mr Rader was first arrested in November 1983 in connection with the disappearance of an Israeli family, Mr Sol Solomon, his wife, Elaine, and their two children, and English immigrant couple, Mr Peter Davis and his wife, Jean. Police said Mr Rader was the last person to see the Solomons alive. The bodies of both families have never been found.

Moscow professor draws grim picture

From Christopher Walker Moscow

A brutally frank picture of the many severe social problems being faced by the Soviet Union has been outlined here at a rare press conference by Professor Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, one of Moscow's leading sociologists.

Among the "negative tendencies" repeatedly ignored by Soviet sociologists in the past, Professor Bestuzhev-Lada named a growing drug problem, alcoholism on a chronic scale, family breakdowns, excessive bureaucracy when dealing with youth, an out-dated system of higher education, and specific women's problems.

He said that for demographic reasons, the Soviet Union faced both problems evident in Asia and Africa - and practically the same problems which exist in Western countries. He said that their solutions lay in being "open" about their existence.

The 51-year-old professor, who is also one of Moscow's most respected futurologists, reserved some of his harshest

criticism for his fellow social scientists in the communist state. He accused them of being afraid of the country's problems and therefore reluctant to release accurate statistics on them.

"I am for the publication of all sorts of figures, but unfortunately my opponents have their own ideas," he said. "They are afraid to publish, particularly out of fear of our communal problems. I am sure that if such data on negative issues were published, people would rapidly become bored with it as they did with pornography in Scandinavia when it was legalized."

The academic spoke with remarkable openness about the "personality cult of Stalin", which he said was largely responsible for retarding the science of sociology in the Soviet Union and preventing for many years the proper analysis of many problems.

Apart from the outspoken nature of his remarks, the press conference - organized by the Soviet Foreign Ministry - also was marked by the lack

McFarlane testimony contradicts White House statement

White House in trouble on discrepancy as critics close in

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The extraordinary revelations by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, on Monday, of the way he was bypassed in the Iran arms sales have caused consternation in the embattled White House, but more threatening questions were raised by the testimony of Mr Robert McFarlane, the former National Security Adviser.

In particular, his statement that President Reagan specifically authorized the shipment in August 1985 of arms to Iran by Israel contradicts the repeated insistence by the White House that Mr Reagan knew of this only after the event.

The White House was unable again yesterday to reconcile the discrepancy as more and more critics asserted that Mr Reagan, or at least another senior official, must have authorized the shipments.

Suspicion continued to swirl around the roles of Mr William Casey, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff.

Mr McFarlane flatly contradicted statements made by the President in an interview with Time magazine two weeks ago in which he said "another country" overcharged the Iranians for arms and put the proceeds into the Contra bank accounts. "It wasn't US funnelling money to them," Mr Reagan said then.

But Mr McFarlane told the committee that Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North had told him in May, while they were both on an arms delivery mission to Tehran, that "the US Government had applied part of the proceeds" from the arms sales to helping the Contras. He would not answer when asked why he had not told Colonel North that this might be illegal. But he

emphasized that he believed the President did not know about this.

In another controversial disclosure Mr McFarlane said that he considered Mr Reagan's oral approval in August 1985 of the arms shipment from Israel to Iran had the same legal authority as a written intelligence "finding" - an authorization which Mr Reagan officially gave in January 1986 for arms deliveries.

Part of the controversy surrounding the whole affair is the question whether the August shipment violated the US embargo which specifically forbids either the US Government, or individuals or even third countries from exporting US-made arms to Iran or Iraq.

Without an official "finding", oral approval by the President would appear legally to be insufficient.

Mr McFarlane said Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, has voiced the opinion that such unwritten authority by the President was legal.

Mr Reagan, according to Mr McFarlane, told his senior aides, singly and in private conversation, about his authorization.

This raises extremely important questions which go to the heart of the credibility of the White House and of Mr Reagan personally.

Did the President give such authorization, as claimed by Mr McFarlane? If so, did he then genuinely forget about it afterwards? If, on the other hand, Mr Reagan gave no such order, who did?

Mr McFarlane suggested a "climate of opinion" had been created in the White House which looked favourably on the shipment of arms to Iran and may have led to the diversion of funds from the profits.



Two men at the heart of the Iran arms debate: Mr John Kelly, the recalled US Ambassador to Lebanon; and, right, Vice Admiral John Poindexter leaving home yesterday to appear before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Envoy lacked 'hands-on' expertise

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr John Kelly, the US Ambassador to Lebanon, who has been summoned home to explain his involvement in the Iran arms sale operation, went to Beirut only about four months ago and previously had no important assignment in the Middle East.

Mr Kelly, aged 47, is a respected career officer who joined the Foreign Service in 1965. He has held a variety of posts with American missions in Turkey, Thailand and France before being nominated as Ambassador to Beirut by President Reagan in July.

Mr Kelly's brother, Mr James Kelly, is a director for Asian affairs on President Reagan's National Security Council.

Mr John Kelly's Foreign Service record does not list any posting in the Arab world. Diplomatic observers thought that one reason he may have been chosen for the Lebanon assignment - a dangerous post for American diplomats and their families - is that he is single.

However, he has much knowledge of Middle East developments having worked in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research in 1972-73 before going to the Pentagon as a special assistant for Thailand in the Defence Secretary's office.

He used the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) communications network to pass messages from Beirut to the National Security Council staff, but there is no

suggestion that he has any links with the CIA. Indeed, Western governments are extremely careful about not appointing intelligence officers as heads of diplomatic missions abroad.

Mr Kelly was political-military officer at the Paris Embassy during 1976-80 and was later principal deputy assistant secretary for European affairs in the State Department.

Besides having lengthy experience of administrative and public affairs, Mr Kelly has also attended the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Virginia.

Colleagues described him as a "very competent person" who had found himself in difficult situations before and responded well.

Portuguese channel for Israel-Iran arms traffic

From Marinha de la Cal Lisbon

Portugal's 20 armament companies export arms legally to Iran, Iraq and other countries with prior approval of the ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, but during the past few years Portugal has also served as an intermediary for trans-shipment of arms from Israel to Iran by importing them, adding local content and sending them on with

shipments of Portuguese arms.

An official in the Ministry of Defence in Lisbon told The Times: "We sell arms to both Iran and Iraq. Last year we had a big contract with Iran." He admitted that shipments go through "in transit", but said no one in government knew of any illegal operations.

Portugal has sold a total of 594 million of arms legally to Iran during the past three years and a total of 223

million during the first six months of 1986.

The companies which export the greatest amount are the state-owned Indep (Industria de Defesa Portuguesa), Fabrica Nacional de Munições e Armas Ligadas, Cometa and Extra-Explosivos de Trafaria.

Indep, which exports 95 per cent of its production, produces automatic rifles, machine-guns, mortars and ammunition. Cometa is making

mortars for Iran, and Extra is loading grenades and mortars in shell cases received from Israel and Italy.

The attitude of the American Embassy in Lisbon is that the United States would be interested in Portugal's arms trade with Iran only if it were receiving US military equipment and turning around and selling it to Iran or if it involved nuclear or super-sophisticated equipment.

Gringos fight language invasion

US move to preserve English

From Christopher Thomas New York

An overwhelming vote in a California referendum in favour of making English the official language has fired a national movement to fight bilingualism, provoking alarm among Spanish speakers and Asians and creating havoc in schools with bilingual programmes.

Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia and Georgia have declared English their official language and similar legislation is pending in California and 15 other states, including New York and Florida, which have enormous Hispanic populations.

The movement has clearly inflamed intense passions

among English-speaking Americans about the steady drift towards bilingualism in states like Texas and California. Demographers have speculated that both could have a Spanish-speaking majority within a few generations.

US English, the main national organization behind the movement with 250,000 members, believes 30 states will be debating language legislation by next year. Already, dozens of cities and counties have adopted English-only laws.

The English language movement is widely regarded as an adjunct to the movement for immigration control. Accusations of racism are common from Asians and Hispanics, the two groups most affected.

California is discussing legislation to ban bilingual education, already in 600,000 state schools, following the November 4 referendum. Coincidentally, current bilingual programmes end in 1987 and Governor George Deukmejian has vetoed a Democratic-sponsored Bill to extend them for five years. (Bilingual programmes are very expensive.)

Attempts are under way in Congress to pass a constitutional amendment declaring English the official language, but that is bound to be an uphill battle. Most of the fight against bilingualism is being staged at the local and state level. In Florida for example, 20 municipalities have adopted English as their official language during the past year.

A plea for rights in Indonesia

Jakarta - A leading Indonesian human rights group yesterday called on the Government to install two human rights bodies - one in the country's Parliament and the other in the Attorney-General's office - to enable a more systematic monitoring of human rights (Our Correspondent writes).

In a report issued yesterday, the Institute for Legal Aid (ILAH), a privately-funded organization, said the human rights situation in 1986 was "neither better nor worse" than in 1985. But it said freedom of expression had worsened.

Rights group to focus on women and children

By Caroline Moorehead

A new human rights organization, Rights and Humanity, was launched in London last night, the eve of International Human Rights Day, to focus on the "plight of men, women and children who face starvation, racial discrimination, or unprovoked violence and who are unable to defend themselves".

The purpose of the new body, which is backed by a prestigious international council and includes such people as Professor Theo van Boven, Professor Sir James Fawcett, QC, and Sir Brian Urquhart, is not to set new laws or new standards but to make existing legal machinery work for people who need it.

The new group has drawn up a list of projects aimed at finding ways to help people understand their rights and how to enforce them. It does not intend to duplicate work already being carried out.

At a moment of unprecedented human rights interest, the question is how effective it can be at carving its own niche. Spectrum, page 12

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL CYPRIOTS

The words "human rights" have been used so frequently that it is often forgotten that they involve the fates, the daily lives and the happiness of ordinary men and women.

The restoration and protection of the human rights of all Cypriots is an essential prerequisite for a just, viable and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem.

We believe that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots should enjoy the basic rights to return to their homes and to live wherever they wish throughout Cyprus. There should be no segregation according to religion or language or culture. Each and every Cypriot should have the right to own property anywhere and the right to move freely across the length and breadth of our small country.

The Turkish troops who occupy 37% of Cyprus prevent 200,00 displaced Greek Cypriots from returning to their homes. The few hundred Greek Cypriots still there are being squeezed out and the properties of the displaced Greek Cypriots have been distributed to Turks. On the contrary, the homes of Turkish Cypriots in the free part of the Republic of Cyprus are still officially considered to be their own properties, but the Turkish military occupation regime which forced or lured them away from their homes does not allow them to return there.

About 60,000 settlers from the Turkish mainland have been brought to Cyprus and have been granted "political rights" by the Turkish Cypriot "authorities". Thus, in the area of Cyprus under Turkish military control there is now one mainland Turk, civilian or soldier, for every Turkish Cypriot. The people of Cyprus have the right to reject the massive imposition of foreigners on their homeland.

Turkey is preventing the investigation into the fate of the 1619 Greek Cypriots who have been missing since the Turkish invasion in 1974. Their families have the right to know whether they are alive or dead. The prolonged uncertainty about the fate of their "disappeared" is nothing less than a subtle form of cruel torture.

We claim the human right of every Cypriot to live free of the fear of foreign invasion and the suppression of foreign occupation. There are over 35,000 Turkish troops in Cyprus and recently their numbers have been increased and the quality of their armoured forces improved. Concern at this development has been expressed even by Turkey's allies. All these occupation troops should be withdrawn. They have no place in an independent Cyprus and they prevent the restoration of the human rights of its citizens.

The violations of human rights as a result of the Turkish military occupation of part of Cyprus have been authoritatively verified by impartial international organs, including the Commission of Human Rights of the Council of Europe. This intolerable situation must not be allowed to continue. We appeal to the international community and particularly to human rights organisations to take all steps necessary to put an end to the tragedy of Cyprus.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT CYPRUS

Rebels count successes after Kabul reshuffle

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

The onset of winter, which usually signals a distinct reduction in guerrilla activity in Afghanistan, has been greeted this year by an upsurge in fighting instead.

In and around Kabul, the Afghan capital, and especially around the southern city of Kandahar, the bitter battle has continued, according to Western diplomats.

The lack of success of the Soviet-backed Government in both arenas is blamed by some diplomats on the effective demotion of Colonel-General Nazar Muhammad, the Min-

ister of Defence, who became a Deputy Prime Minister in a reshuffle announced last week.

The diplomats also suggest that there has been a shake-up within the Defence Ministry itself, with as many as 20 senior officers arrested and charged with being Mujahedin sympathizers.

Activity in Kabul has been marked, they say, by fresh guerrillas moving into the area armed with "new weapons" which are said to include anti-aircraft missiles and an Oerlikon machine gun, reputed to be thoroughly effective against helicopter gunships.

Certainly Kabul residents during the past week have

reported rocket activity from the insurgents and artillery reaction by the government forces almost every day.

A number of successes in bringing down helicopters and fixed-wing planes has been reported. Helicopters have been reported in trouble both close to Kabul and in the east of the country. One fixed-wing plane has been reported by Afghan sources to have been brought down in Shekari, south of the capital, and another to have crash-landed, killing 40 passengers, short of Kabul airport.

Around Kandahar, heavy fighting has been reported along the road towards Ghazni.

An Afghan source reported that 82 Afghan Army officers and men have been brought back wounded to Kabul from the Kandahar fighting. Diplomats also say that Soviet casualties are being flown directly to the Soviet Union.

As a result of the ministerial changes Dr Muhammad Najib, the Afghan leader, has strengthened his position against any come-back by the dismissed former President, Mr Babrak Karmal.

Reports are circulating in Kabul that Mr Karmal will be offered the post of Ambassador in Czechoslovakia.

Chirac backs down and defers debate on controversial Bill

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Washington
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Toll mounts in clashes with Israeli troops

Army told to keep low profile as violence spreads in Gaza

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

For the sixth consecutive day violence spread through the Occupied Territories yesterday, despite instructions to the Israeli Army to keep a low profile and attempts by Palestinian leaders to cool tempers.

The worst troubles were in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian sources said three demonstrators were wounded by gunshot and 30 others beaten with clubs as the Army broke up demonstrations.

At Deir Ammar camp, near Bethlehem, another man was said to have been wounded by gunfire, while in Manger Square in the town, where the Christmas decorations had started to go up, there were clashes between students and security forces.

In a well-disciplined demonstration yesterday, around 1,000 students and staff of Bir Zeit University held a mile-long silent protest march from their new campus on a hill in the countryside to their old one in the town, which has now been shut until the New Year. The march passed for a moment at the spot where one of the two students from the university was shot dead by Israeli troops last Thursday.

The current wave of protests is one of the most sustained and widespread in the 19-year occupation of the

West Bank and Gaza, with young teenagers taking full advantage of the tense and angry atmosphere to throw stones at the Israelis they have learned to hate while living in the teeming refugee camps and slums of the Territories.

Stone-throwing is the usual reason given by the Israeli Army for troops for firing live

the BBC and Reuter, I was driving to Bir Zeit when we noticed 100 or so youngsters on the hillside, a quarter of a mile or so from the main road, which was protected at that point by a patrol of soldiers from the Givati Brigade in their purple berets.

We turned down a side-road to reach the hillside and found

side window seemed to explode and a brick-sized rock hit Mr Edinger on the back of the head, momentarily knocking him out, ripping off a patch of hair and opening an ugly gash behind the ear.

With hindsight it had been stupid to go towards the youngsters. They were only 12 to 16 years old, intent on declaring their camp a "no-go" area and the troops had wisely kept out of range until they grew bored. We provided the target the youngsters had been waiting for.

But under that hail of stones it was easy to understand just how simple it would be for a young soldier with a gun in his hand to lose control and fire.

It was also easy to see that the youngsters were enjoying their moment of power. For a short while they could feel they had restored a kind of Palestinian rule on the hillside, where they openly defied the Israeli troops.

At the university the disciplined demonstration had changed. "Reagan, Reagan, you must know, we support the PLO" and had briefly flown the illegal Palestinian flag. But it was their ill-disciplined younger brothers, and a few sisters, who had, however briefly, recaptured the land.

Mr Ira Rappaport, a US-born leader of Israel's Jewish settlement movement, was indicted yesterday in Jerusalem District Court on suspicion of planting a bomb which blew off the legs of Mr Bassam Shakaa, the Palestinian Mayor of Nablus, in June 1986. Israel Radio said (AP reports from Jerusalem). He was charged with membership in a terrorist organization and aggravated assault.

ammunition at demonstrators. It has been the excuse for all four occasions in the past week in which people have died.

In an attempt to stop it yesterday, troops going in to break up a demonstration at the Jabalia camp on the Gaza Strip arrested a number of youngsters and made them sit on their vehicles as they rode in. This human screen stopped anyone in the camp even thinking of throwing stones.

Before shooting they are meant to be in "imminent danger" and on a rocky hillside outside Amari camp, south of Ramallah, yesterday I learned how real that danger can be. With colleagues from

an old bath tub and some rocks had been put up to block the way to the camp. As we got out of the car one of the youngsters spotted us and shouted. The whole group turned and ran down the hill towards us. As they ran they began to throw stones.

Bernard Edinger, from Reuter, shouted in Arabic "English journalists." But the stoning continued. Two Arab women from a nearby house rushed out to try to stop the charge, but in vain. We turned back to the car as stones began to rain down. One hit the back of my leg and slowed me to a walk.

We reached the car but as we accelerated away the rear



Chinese students in march for democracy

Peking (AP) — Thousands of university students in the east China provincial capital of Hefei marched on government headquarters yesterday demanding greater democracy, city residents said.

The protest, the first mass demonstration for democracy since the 1978-1979 Peking Spring, coincided with the anniversary of a 1935 anti-Japanese student movement that has traditionally marked a tense period on Chinese campuses.

One witness said about 3,000 students with banners saying "We demand democracy" marched through the streets, chanting "No democracy, no modernization."

Residents said the students gathered on the steps of the Anhui provincial government headquarters to make speeches calling for greater democracy in the selection of representatives for the People's Congress.

Agitation in Hefei began on Friday with a 5,000-strong campus demonstration against the Communist Party vetting of candidates to the Anhui Provincial People's Congress, a foreign student there said.

A hilly province that is not normally a focus of political developments in China, Anhui includes some of the country's poorest districts.

Wiesel faces war of words in Oslo

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Mr Elie Wiesel, the man of peace, was visibly discomforted yesterday to find that he had walked straight into a war of words.

Mr Wiesel, who is to receive the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize at the University of Oslo today, was bombarded during an introductory press conference with hostile questions concerning his attitudes, as a Jew and a Zionist, towards the Palestinian question.

When one friendly question finally emerged, that was, how did he feel about the hostile line of questioning with which he had been greeted? — the guest of honour complained: "You are asking me questions because I am a Jew that you would not have otherwise asked me."

Norwegian and German journalists repeatedly returned to the theme of Israeli treatment of the Palestinians, several times asking Mr Wiesel, whose reputation as a writer is based on his personal experiences during the holocaust, what his response was to the recent deaths of children shot by Israeli soldiers.

Patience, the Nobel laureate reiterated that he was a man of peace, not a politician, and deplored all violence.

"I cannot defend any death," he said, "particularly the death of children. I do not believe any Israeli officer wanted to kill children."

Norwegian feelings ran high on the Palestinian question and a demonstration is planned by anti-Israeli groups during Mr Wiesel's visit.

Mr Wiesel plans to use the \$200,000 prize money to establish a foundation for peace studies, which would hold a conference next year in Hiroshima.

In reply to a final question — what made him happy? — Mr Wiesel had the last word on the press conference itself: "I belong to a special generation; our joy is never complete."

There had been no champagne in his house, he said, when he was told he had won the prize.

caust, what his response was to the recent deaths of children shot by Israeli soldiers.

Patience, the Nobel laureate reiterated that he was a man of peace, not a politician, and deplored all violence.

"I cannot defend any death," he said, "particularly the death of children. I do not believe any Israeli officer wanted to kill children."

Norwegian feelings ran high on the Palestinian question and a demonstration is planned by anti-Israeli groups during Mr Wiesel's visit.

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Washington abstains in UN censure vote

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Israel's violent response to Palestinian demonstrators on the West Bank was strongly censured by the United Nations Security Council last night, when it called for maximum restraint to prevent tensions escalating further.

In a rare departure from its policy of shielding Israel from formal criticism, the United States reinforced the Council's view that the Israelis' show of force could only fuel confrontation and inspire rioting.

Fourteen Council members approved of the resolution and the Reagan Administration showed its displeasure by abstaining.

The American acquiescence to a resolution it would have normally blocked angered the Israelis, who maintained throughout the two-day debate that their soldiers were

forced to fire at the protesters. Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli representative, said there was a conspiracy to provoke violence in the region, which the Israeli Government sought to pacify.

But the US decision was seen as an attempt to restore its credibility with moderate Arab countries after the debacle over disclosures of arms shipments to Iran.

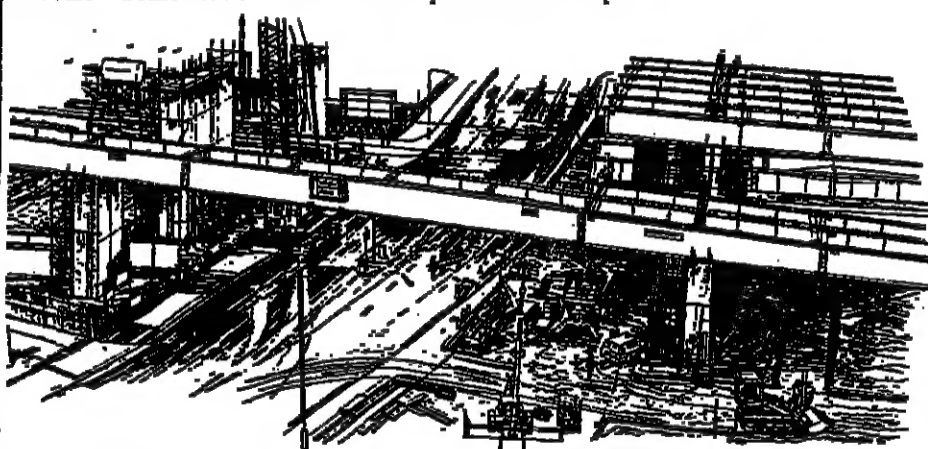
● JERUSALEM: Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said yesterday that he regretted the American decision to abstain (Ian Murray writes). An American veto would have stopped the resolution.

He said this was the second time "over the last period" that the US had abstained on an issue involving Israel.

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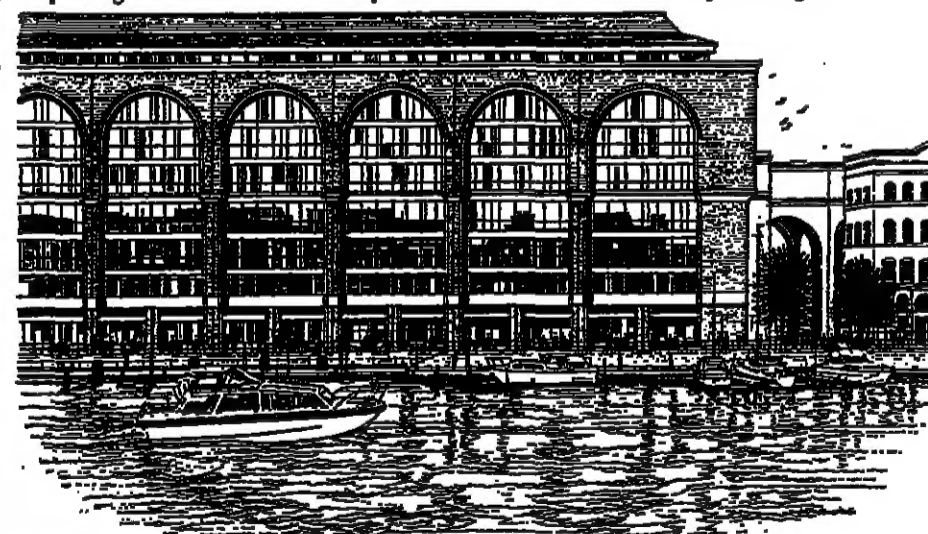
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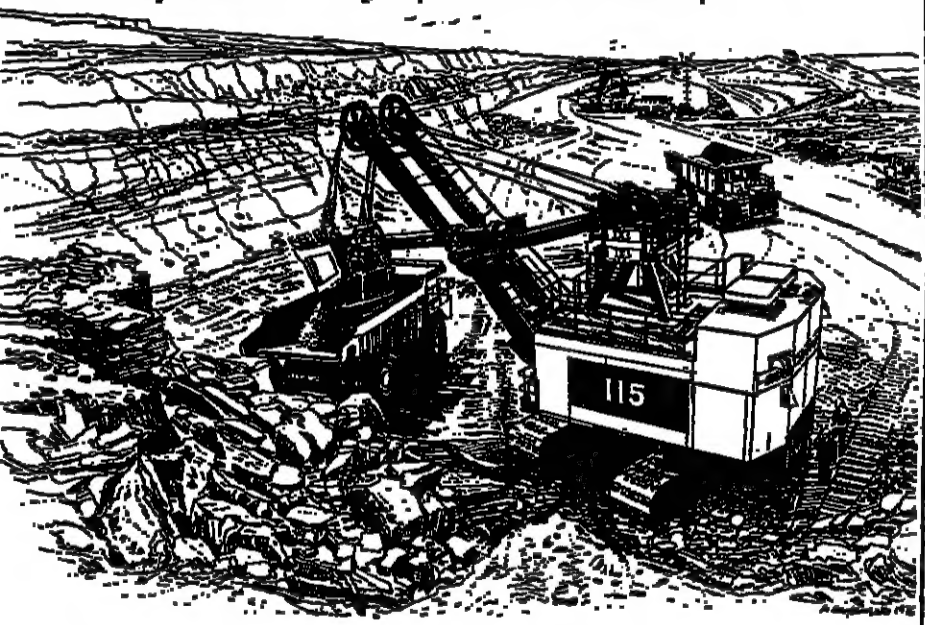
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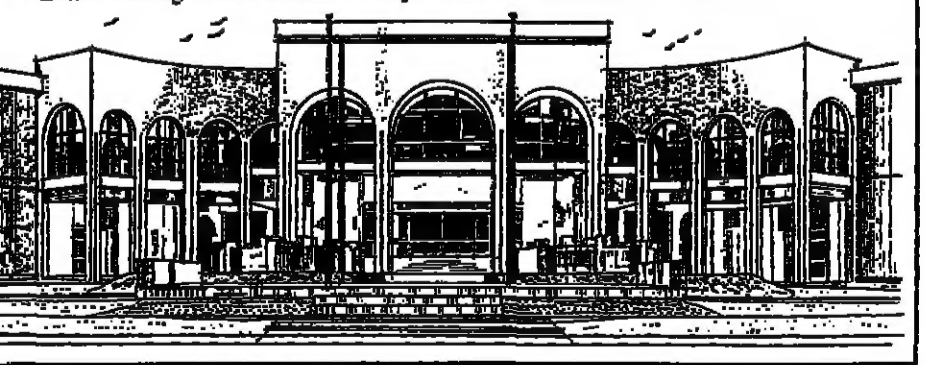
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THE ARTS

Fiddler on the hoof

Tonight the young pop and classical violinist Nigel Kennedy will play the Elgar Violin Concerto at the Festival Hall. Richard Morrison spoke to him about his mixed tastes in music



Wired for sound: Nigel Kennedy at home with his "Cathedral" Strad and electric violin on the floor

In his modest basement flat in Tufnell Park, north London, Britain's most celebrated young violinist displays some prized possessions. "That's the one you can leave lying around," says Nigel Kennedy of the electric violin at his feet, all "hooked up" to amplifier and pedal modulators and ready to hurtle Kennedy into some new-wave classic at the flick of a switch.

Handled with considerably more delicacy is his latest acquisition: the "Cathedral" Stradivarius, so called because of its rich, sonorous timbre. It is this instrument that Kennedy will coax through the Elgar Violin Concerto at the Festival Hall tonight.

He considers himself lucky to have it. "In Germany it's almost automatic that if you're into concertos some local council will buy you a good instrument, and in America there are foundations that help. Here it's very tough. I wrote to MPs - both parties; even all three, I was so desperate - but in the end it was a private individual, a real music-lover, who bought the Strad so I could use it."

The two contrasting instruments neatly symbolise the unique manner in which the Brighton-born Kennedy, now approaching 30, has juggled several musical careers simultaneously. So does his relationship with EMI: he has separate contracts with the pop and classical divisions. "The good thing about being contracted to a vast multinational is that there's usually someone there who understands what I'm about on any particular day."

Nevertheless, knowing how to

market Kennedy's latest album must have taxed even EMI's corporate resourcefulness. One side is filled by Bartók's Solo-Violin Sonata, the other by Kennedy's own arrangement for violin and double bass (played by Alec Dankworth, son of John and Cleo) of numbers from Duke Ellington's suite *Black, Brown and Beige*. EMI's uncertainty about whether this constitutes a classical or popular release has resulted in the record bearing the memorable number "NIGEL 1".

Kennedy's version of Ellington is haunting, sparse and technically brilliant - but it is a long way from the big-band original. What prompted him to record it? "I was looking for a composer who had links with Bartók," Ellington made his first recording of *Black, Brown and Beige* in the year of the Bartók premiere, and both works could be said to be folk-derived.

"Scaling Ellington down from the original was not so difficult. His melodies and harmonies are very strong, so even though I don't have those fantastic arrangements which are, like, amazing, I still had strong ideas to work off. And I was inspired by Ray Nance's really beautiful violin playing on the 1958 Ellington recording."

Kennedy made his first foray into the jazz field for Chandos Records: an album called "Strad Jazz". Unfortunately, the title misled many jazz buffs into expecting something in the mould of Grappelli. Kennedy's early jazz mentor, "A lot of people were disappointed because it didn't sound like Steph. You know it was called 'Strad Jazz'. Well, they thought that meant 'trad'."

His insistence on mixing his classical career with jazz and rock has disconnected some in the music business, perhaps even more than his consciously cultivated "ordinary bloke" image, or his London-cab accent and his endearing faith in the permanent usefulness of early 1970s "chip" slang. He does not pretend to be leading any crusade against class or culture barriers hindering musical enjoyment; nevertheless, he thinks it is certainly "edgy" that "people now, especially young people, are just into good music, rather than any particular category."

Any impression of Kennedy as a kind of talented dilettante, dabbling in whatever takes his fancy, is quickly dispelled by a glance at his working

routine. He practises daily for a solid five hours, of which about 90 minutes is devoted to technical exercises alone (many of them evolved by himself). This maintains "a certain physical well-being on the instrument", and supports a concert schedule of around 120 engagements every year - or one public ordeal every three days.

He was, however, marked out and rigorously trained as a potential solo violinist from a tender age, and the prolonged attentions of a BBC TV documentary team ensured that his growing-up process was accomplished in highly public circumstances. He spent nearly ten years at one of Britain's "specialist music schools" (the Yehudi Menuhin School), and an equally intense three years at the Juilliard School in New York. Now he has mixed views on this sort of hothouse education.

"On the one hand, it might have stopped me being a really good pop musician by the time I was 20, because we simply didn't hear much pop. But the Menuhin School helped me develop very quickly as a classical musician. When I went to the Juilliard I found that the guys who had studied in Europe had more general appreciation of music than the Americans, who were much further ahead in the technical exploitation of their instruments." Was there one major thing Kennedy learnt from the "New York" style of violin-playing - from Stern, Perlman, Zukerman? "Yes. Those guys all have big ideas about music, and they aim to put the big ideas first. That's definitely rubbed off on me."

Suffering dressed up

About 40,000 children will die today. The same number died yesterday. The same will die tomorrow, of malnutrition, dehydration, measles and other preventable causes.

This outrage is what Unicef is out to stem, as well as the abuse of children in sweatshops, brothels, war. In presenting a marathon documentary to mark Unicef's 40th anniversary, Denis Tuohy invoked the spirit of Band Aid to stress that "No child should be the grief of its mother alone."

To us a Child (Thames) was probably too long for its own good. Taking eight children round the world, from the garbage heaps of Bogota to the killing fields of Nicaragua, Tuohy told the same story over

TELEVISION

again, underpinning it with resolute statistics and Peter George's often beautiful camerawork - footage which seemed far too arty for the subject matter.

This lack of reality was compounded by an absence of passion and indignation in Tuohy's presentation. At times he might have been fronting an educational bulletin made by the Central Office of Information. We could also have done without Nigel Hess's inappropriately sentimental music.

Hess's composition's were to be found contaminating the first part of *All Passion Spent* (BBC2), a lavish adaptation of a middling novel by Vita Sackville-West (some critics would say the title too well describes the content).

Forsaking James Last as his muse in the Unicef celebration, Hess seems to have taken up the baton of Bert Kaempfert's grandfather for this 1930's tale of a distinguished widow who decides to live alone in Hampstead.

Admittedly, there were some longeurs which needed filling in Peter Buckman's ponderous dramatization. Nevertheless, beneath the over-melodious euphony, Wendy Hiller was immaculately mischievous as the bereft Lady Slane while Maurice Denham gave a nice rendering of Mr Buckman, an estate agent with imminent profits of the end of the world.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Q "I'm entirely bored by myself" says the author.

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Stone dead, but lively as ever

Candida King's Head

Candida is a good example of Shaw's mysterious capacity to write topical plays that somehow achieved lasting existence.

In 1897 he judged the time appropriate for a pro-Raphaelite comedy. He saw that religion was alive again "coming back even upon clergymen with such power that not even the Church of England itself could keep it out."

He also seized the moment for turning Ibsen's *A Doll's House* inside out and showing a husband in the role of a domestic pet. I do not see any of today's male feminists trying that one on; still less anyone getting the Christian Socialist bandwagon back on the road. Typically speaking, the play is stone dead; but the piece itself remains as lively as ever.

What can undermine it is to mistake it for an emotional drama. When this happens, *Candida* becomes a muscle-bound demonstration of moral one-upmanship between a pugilistic Christian, a fiery young poet, a Virgin mother, inset in a framework of comedy.

In Frank Hauser's beautifully judged production it is comic through and through. From the first sight of Karen McCullen's Prossy savagely licking her envelopes and

THEATRE

Nicholas Amer's bleary old Burgess subsiding under an avalanche of pious rhetoric, it is clear that the supporting entertainment is in safe hands.

As for the central action, Hauser unfolds it with maximum clarity and contrast as a succession of unmasking games; by which Morrell first calls Burgess's bluff, only to be caught out himself by Marchbanks and then by Candida herself. The fillet of the early scenes before her arrival is so strong that they almost forget that it is her play.

David Rintoul's Morrell is everything she says about him in the last act. He looks like a splendid head boy, as much a sporting hero as crusading person; overflowing with generous public emotion and ready to switch from indignation to open friendship on the smallest pretext. This is an excellent performance along orthodox lines.

The other two performances make a spectacular departure from Shawian stereotypes. The main shot comes from Rupert Graves's Marchbanks; a part so soaked in synthetic poeticism as to defeat most actors. Mr Graves, instead of trying to upgrade Marchbanks into Shelley, plays him as a callow, miserably shy weed, forever



Maureen O'Brien as Candida and David Rintoul as Morrell

twisting his hands together, crumbling into little boy apologies, and stumbling over the furniture.

His poetry is supposed to sound dreadful. What turns him into an active theatrical presence is his understanding of the Morrell marriage. Despite his physical cowardice, some inner force compels him to keep blurring out home truths that make Morrell want to wring his neck. He does not wholly negotiate the stickier passages in the last act, but it is worth the price of a ticket simply to hear his anguished howl at the mention of a scrubbing-brush.

Long wait for laughs

Turkey Time Bristol Old Vic

Stout's dining room in Duddwater-on-Sea we have been softened up, taken back to 1931, and now we should like to laugh, please.

The laughs are slow to emerge from the lace-thin muddle of two young men, hitched to the wrong young women, who occupy three shortish acts switching them around against a freeze of irate landladies baying for their rent and the over-familiar and here under-used - battle-axe matron and battle-axe spouse.

It is a quaintly far-off world, a time when mugging meant kissing and a girl joyfully flicked a leg back when nudged.

In the first two acts the laughs are thinly spread, one

of them comes with the arrival of Mrs Gather, the Irish landlady, whom Robert East greets with: "Who is all this?" Delivered as here, as though this impossible grammar was entirely sound and clear, it is a very funny line.

The third act offers rather more material for laughter. Earlier, the production showed inert gaps between the beginning and the end of moves, as if the cast had expected the space to be filled with the sound of an audience creaking itself.

The stern fact is that 30 years of comic education has left us hungry for longer scenes than the brief exchanges Travers gives us, impatient with the merely flippant, and irritated by unmotivated complication.

Jeremy Kingston

A touch too chilling

RECITAL

Siegfried Jerusalem Wigmore Hall

of the narrow, rising phrases of the penultimate song's vision of the three ghostly suns.

But Jerusalem's is an heroic tenor, too, and this rare quality made all too little mark on the cycle. However weary this traveller, he is perpetually "Oh-oh-oh, and such a rub" - "Without rest, seeking rest" - and it was this sense of

torment, of feverishly renewed then wasted energy, that was lacking in Mr Jerusalem's dream-like performance.

It is vital to the work's structure: the centrally placed "Die Post" simply cannot be delivered as second-class mail, and the last lines of "Im Dorfe" should be clue enough to propel rather than jerk the voice forward into "Der stürmische Morgen".

The performance was not without its moments of intensity. But the voice was only fitfully able to sustain them. The constricted top is increasingly problematic, and the piano's viewpoint was often idiosyncratic and myopic.

Jerusalem and Mauser were not untroubled: the incessant whooshing of noisily turned translation sheets, and a door haunted, it seemed, by its own creaking will o' the wisp, were obvious distractions.

Hilary Finch

Patience brings reward

OPERA Samson Covent Garden

This still may not be a production quite to bring the house down, but the sagaciousness of Elijah Moshinsky's Handel is now more evident than, by all accounts, it was last year, when *Samson* was staged as the Royal Opera's tercentenary tribute.

You just have to be patient. The first act is sluggish, even in this considerably cut version, and the grand manoeuvres of architectural features begin to be wearisome, much as one might sympathise with Mr Moshinsky's wish to add movement.

But the second act begins to move more purposefully, not only in the encounter between Samson and Delilah, but also in the verbal duel between the Israelite and Philistine champions, each wheeled about on a trolley.

Then the third act, taking place behind great black doors, entirely justifies the decision to stage what Handel wrote as an oratorio. Here is the robust theatre of the feast to Dagon, seen taking place through the doors under tangle light; here also are such telling moments as that where the messenger slips out to bring news of the catastrophe.

Originally the production was mounted around Jon Vickers. Robert Tear, appearing now, is of course a Samson of a very different sort: a much more natural Handelian, and highly musical in all he does, but not a magnificent, ruined victim. Shuffling about in chains and a grey overcoat, he looks more an Ivan Denisovich than a warrior for God, and his beautiful singing never quite makes up for an inevitable implausibility.



Robert Tear and Carol Vaness: a purposeful encounter

Carol Vaness repeats a Dillia of as much radiant pride as seductive allure. In her bearing and in her vocal demeanour she projects a believably 18th-century image of sensuality: an awareness of existing as an emblem.

Her echo quartet with the three virgins was ravishing in this perfectly mannered way, and it was good to hear more of her brilliant upper register in the opening song of the Philistine Woman, and at the end in "Let the bright seraphim".

Sarah Walker as Micah was a feeling comfort, although she had some trouble in negotiating the bottom of her voice. Gwynne Howell also

Paul Griffiths

Die Fledermaus Coliseum

In the early years of the century Mahler rebuked the Vienna State Opera, of which he was then director, with the remark "Tradition is slovenliness."

There is - thank heavens - still plenty of Viennese slovenliness left in the English National Opera's production of *Die Fledermaus*. A setting that holds on to the traditional period and style, as Strauss intended, has much to be said for it, however tiresome some of its comic business may become on repetition.

It is especially beneficial to the singers. While other recent operetta productions have tended to trap the soloists in a concept for which they may have no sympathy, this one leaves them free to develop Strauss's characters within the right ambience. There is even real champagne.

The very best of tradition

courtesy of Moët and Chandon.

This year's vintage is above average. Valerie Masterson, singing Rosalinda here for the first time, is the epitome of Viennese elegance. She looks lovely in the period costumes and those early years with the D'Oyly Carte have left her a well-practised comedienne with a quick feeling for comic timing.

Her only problem is the size of the house. The czardas, in particular, sounded vocally thin, as she tried to make up for the lack of well nourished tone by spitting out the consonants. Her husband Eisenstein is the baritone Alan

Opie, apparently having no troubles with the high tessitura.

The rest is much as before. Lillian Watson and Christopher Booth-Jones make a sparkling, engaging couple as Adele and Dr Falke, though her high D's sounded a bit raw. Fiona Kimm is the one Orlovsky and Eric Shilling the regimental prison governor. The prison scene was not funny, but at least it is shorter than usual.

The conductor, Herbert Prikopa, milks the music affectionately for every drop of its sentiment, but stage and orchestra were all over the place in matters of ensemble. Viennese slovenliness in this department is not welcome.

Richard Fairman

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SPECTRUM

Behind the closed frontiers of fear

PRISONERS
OF CONSCIENCEOn International
Human Rights

Day, Caroline Moorehead reports from the Soviet Union on the Jews who face jail and torture for trying to leave the country

As the fourth meeting to review the Helsinki Final Act — which in 1975 laid down, among other things, conditions for emigration from the USSR — continues this month in Vienna, the predicament of the refuseniks, the Jews who have applied to leave the country and been refused, remains appalling.

Twenty-six are in prisons or labour camps; 25 more have served sentences on meaningless charges of "slander" or "malicious hooliganism". Some 10,000 others, suffering various degrees of persecution, wait. Though there has been no arrest in Moscow since February, a young computer mechanic called Albert Burshtein was sentenced last month in Leningrad to 15 days for "interfering with the police and refusing to obey them". He had been caught phoning America from a post office. During the hearing up that went with his arrest, police concentrated on his legs because he has a painful bone condition.

It is not difficult to meet the refuseniks, but it is sometimes unnerving, for imminent trouble encircles them. Though talking to westerners is not encouraged for ordinary people, those who have applied to leave no longer have anything to lose. Visitors represent attention and therefore hope; those who are rarely forgotten worry that they are being forgotten. It is a closed, intense, paranoid world.

In 1979, four years after the Helsinki agreement was signed, the doors appeared to open wide for people who wished to emigrate. That year, 51,000 Jews received exit visas, as did many hundreds of Soviet Germans, Baptists, Armenians and Pentecostals. But then, just as suddenly, the numbers fell. In 1980, Jewish visas dropped to 21,500, and in the first nine months of this year to only 631. In place of possible freedom came an extraordinary campaign of vilification. A wish to leave became a mark of treason. "Slander" and "anti-Soviet propaganda" were made reasons for arrest. The people most harassed among the Jews have been the teachers of Hebrew, among whom there are many stories of tragedy.

Yuri Kosharovskiy is a wiry, neat man with a trim beard and large spectacles, a radio electronics engineer with four children. Seventeen years ago he applied to leave, but was turned down for having once had access to "classified documents". Kosharovskiy's real difficulties began only when he started giving Hebrew lessons. He lost his job in a shop, to which he had been reduced the moment he filed his application; then came intermittent employment as a sweeper, cleaner and watchman.

Soon house searches began, then interrogations and repeated short spells in detention. His son Mikhail was called a "dirty Jew" at school; he was beaten up; his wife was threatened; then his students. Four years ago, he gave up: the threats had become too intense.

Kosharovskiy has not been sent to labour camp: other Hebrew teachers, on less provocation, have. Sasha Kholmiansky is a slight, serious young man with a soft brown beard. He is one of the

A wish to leave
became a mark
of treason

refuseniks' more recent releases from Siberia. In appearance seemingly too fragile to have endured so much, he tells how he was arrested while on a Bible-reading holiday in Estonia, how his flat was searched and drugs and a gun planted, how he went on a five-month hunger strike, continuously force-fed after the first 17 days, and how he spent seven days in a punishment cell wearing only underpants, so cold that he would have died had he not kept moving.

He tells his story dispassionately, without the vehemence of Natasha Magarik, a frantic, agonizingly thin woman, wife of Alexey, a cellist and Hebrew teacher now in a "special regime" camp in Orsk. Alexey, too, was arrested carrying drugs, which had been planted in a suitcase. In October, Natasha visited her husband. She found him injured, his lips split open, his



In waiting: (from left) Oksana Kholmiansky, Yuri Kosharovskiy, Alex Joffe and Mischa Kholmiansky

body bruised from two weeks in the camp's Block 16, filled with men considered "uncorrectable". He had been raped many times.

If arrests are designed to intimidate, they do so effectively. There is something so random about the persecution, so sudden, that those who live "in refusal" remain ever alert. The women look strikingly tired, but it is the children and the teenagers who seem to suffer most, their faces pinched and wan.

Even for those not arrested, intimidation is persistent and pervasive. From the moment the application for an exit visa is made — a long elaborate ritual, involving many permits and signatures — the entire family sinks into a limbo. The low level anti-Semitism that has marked much of Soviet life for so long becomes more overt.

The first year "in refusal" is, they say, the worst. After that comes a strange and heady sense of liberation: some friends drift away, but new ones, fellow refuseniks, turn into close companions. "At last it becomes possible to behave with dignity," explains Mischa Kholmiansky, Sasha's brother. "You have nothing to lose. Spiritually, morally, you become stronger."

Attention at the moment is focused on a new law, due to come

into force next month when, for the first time, precise requirements for emigration are to be spelled out. In appearance this law is more restrictive than anything before: only immediate family ties are to be considered reasons for emigration. But then there are other clauses, murky and expressed in other "valid and satisfactory reasons". The refuseniks gather, question, wonder. Will it be better or worse? What does it mean?

'We believe that
only the West
can save us'

"We are all big lawyers now," says Alex Joffe, a central figure among refuseniks in Moscow.

What is most poignant, among the refuseniks, is the feeling of confusion. Will it do more or less good to re-apply? Is it better to be conciliatory or outspoken? There are no rules.

No one is even quite certain how many refuseniks there are left, nor how many others would apply were the doors to open again. Of the 670,000 invitations sent over the last 15 years by

250,000 became successful final applications. Some 350,000 to 400,000 never followed up their initial enquiries. Among the 10,000 thought to live in the greyness of repeated refusal, there are perhaps 1,000 "active" in Moscow, another 800 in Leningrad.

There is, though, one thing on which all agree: that without the interest of the West their case would be entirely lost. Nadezhda Fradkova, a mathematical physicist who applied to go to Israel, has since suffered eight years of persecution. She has just returned from two years in a labour camp. However, but for Western interest in her case, she is sure that she would still be there, victim of what is known as the "Andropov law". Article 1833, which allows camp commandants to extend prisoners' sentences without a fresh trial.

Each one to whom I spoke made the request — politely, trying hard not to sound insistent — that their particular name, their particular story, be publicized. "We may be wrong, but we believe that only you in the West can save us," Galina Zeichenok said. For some of the refuseniks, driven to the very edge of despair, it is hard to see what else is left.

Sharansky's new
shades of grey

He is growing fat and he has altered his name, but his mind is as lean and hungry as ever, and Natan Sharansky (right), is battling for human rights as fiercely as when he captured world attention from his Soviet prison cell under the name of Anatoly Shcharansky. Today he is in Washington to commemorate International Human Rights Day alongside President Reagan, a year ago he marked the day by going on hunger strike alongside his fellow prisoners, and he can scarcely credit how much has happened to him in between.

"The difference is so fantastic you can't believe," he says in his Jerusalem office. "It is so many lives away."

Each morning he tries to turn his mind back, struggling to remember, for his memoirs, his 13 years in prison. He has found it can take four or five hours to recall the atmosphere of those years so that he can write about them. The daily diversions are many and, since his baby daughter Rachel arrived last month, he has found he no longer knows when the nights end and the days begin.

He is happily dissatisfied. His daughter interrupts his sleep and his wife, Arifal, tries to impose a diet. "I enjoy every day and every hour living here in freedom. But life is much more complicated and in some sense more difficult than in prison. In prison everything is black and white and you only have to keep a distance between yourself and the KGB. Here it is necessary to live with the grey."

He was caught in the grey area last month when he agreed to meet an Arab journalist to talk about human rights and found himself with Faisal Hussein, a known supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Furious at a published story claiming he had agreed to help the PLO, he paid for large newspaper advertisements to say: "The barbarous methods of this organization of cut-throats violate every human standard."

In the same terms as the Israeli government he rejects the PLO as "supporters of terror" ready to kill any moderate

Palestinian who wants to open a dialogue. There is, he says, no lack of a desire in Israel to talk but a lack of anyone to talk to. "People must find ways of talking to one another so that we can live together," he says, without knowing what these ways might be.

The contradictions of living in a democracy puzzle him. "Freedom of expression is something that is very surprising. In the Soviet Union the right to be able to criticize the state is the same you strive for. Here criticism of the government is the most cheap thing. It is much more difficult to criticize your friend than the government."

In Washington he wants to mobilize an army of critics against new Soviet emigration rules which come into force in the New Year. They have been introduced, he says, to create the impression that there is a more liberal regime ready to help emigration. In reality he insists it will make Jewish emigration "practically impossible".

His own criticism of the Israeli government is that it has failed to take a lead in putting pressure on the Soviet Union. "Quiet diplomacy only helps to undermine our struggle. There can be no improvement in relations without solving the problem of Soviet Jewry."

Natan believes there is an urgency. Things have got worse in the Soviet gulag since he was freed last February, he says. There has been a clamp-down on those who might have been encouraged by his release, with greater isolation and more people under arrest — only a relatively small number are Jews, he estimates.

By his calculation there are now some five million people in labour camps with another two million awaiting trial and six million "half slaves" forced to work in dangerous factories or on construction sites.

The Soviet Union of Mr Gorbachev, he says, is already tougher than the one he knew, but the new Soviet leader is so talented at using the western media that he has succeeded in creating the opposite impression.

Ian Murray

● At noon today protesters will gather outside the Aeroflot offices in London to complain about a new law making emigration from the Soviet Union yet harder and about Soviet gross violations of the Helsinki Accord.

● Also today, there will be protest meetings, organized by friends of the refuseniks, the Jews who have been refused permission to leave, in all major cities in Britain and the United States.

● There are to be rallies, speeches, petitions, a protest to the Foreign Office in London, an attempt to present letters of protest to Gorbachev in Moscow.

● Tania Zunsheim, wife of a refusenik serving a three-year sentence in Bazar in Eastern Siberia, has telephoned friends in the West with the words: "Today the voices of people in the free world are just a whisper. Why are they not shouting for us?"

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Taking dirty money to the cleaners

Money is one of the occupational hazards of being a successful drug trafficker in the United States. Under American law, banks have to notify the authorities of any cash deposit over \$10,000 yet drug dealing generates an estimated \$50 to \$60 billion every year.

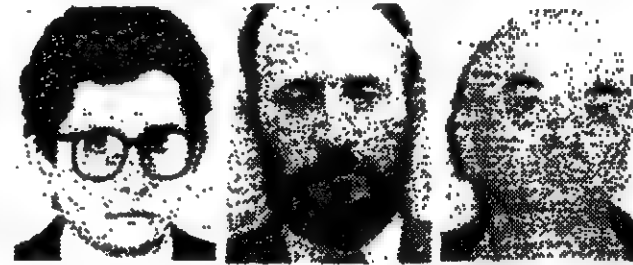
It is a problem men like Oscar Cuevas had a solution for. They offered their fiduciary skills for a percentage of the money they handled.

And the scheme only flourished because of the suspicions and investigatory skills of a British customs officer (see below).

Cuevas, aged 34, is one of the sons of a Bogota lawyer. The Cuevas family business, which is long established, is described as "money exchanging". It has made them wealthy and influential in the area around the Colombian town of Cali.

Early in the 1980s, some members of the Cuevas family opened up in business as contractors for the Colombian gangs dominating the expanding cocaine trade to the United States. If Cuevas is to be believed, he brought special qualities to the task as a

A British customs
man has helped
break a money
laundering scandal
that has brought to
book a racketeer



The laundry men: Cuevas (left), Guzman and Zawadski

trained economist with a thesis on South American agriculture to his credit.

The money gets cleaner as it gets further from its source; shuttled through a network of accounts, it can eventually be returned to anonymous accounts belonging to its owners back in the country of origin.

The Cuevas network, run by Oscar and his brother, Eduardo, offered to handle the whole operation from start to finish in return for between 5 per cent and 9 per cent of the cash in transit. They serviced cocaine traffickers in Miami and Los Angeles.

Eventually their system included 36 "shell" companies and 49 bank accounts. Some of the companies led back to Bogota, where Castela Limitada, which had the telex answer back call sign "Cashco", sat like a Queen Bee.

Simplicity was their key. Money went by a freight subsidiary of the Delta Kool group from Miami to Swiss bank accounts, travelling in sealed envelopes as high-security documents transported, unwittingly, by Brinks, the American security firm.

In 1983, one of the envelopes was opened by Swiss authorities as the Colombians switched to couriers and the destination switched from Switzerland to London.

Cuevas and his brother spent a lot of time in London processing the money. Oscar Cuevas did well from his work, taking a £500 a week flat in Eaton Square or staying at the Grosvenor House.

The money began its journey in Los Angeles where the network employed Ernesto Zawadski, an expatriate

Colombian in his fifties, as warehouseman. Dealers or traffickers would give their money to him.

Zawadski would count the money with special money counting machines and pack the cash in air mail envelopes, which he stored in a spare apartment near his home. The money would be flown to London in a suitcase carried by one of the network's nine couriers.

Each of them would be given the special government forms which have to be filled in and presented when money over \$10,000 is taken out of the United States. If the courier was stopped on his way out he could produce the form and claim he was acting legitimately, but had simply overlooked passing on the form.

As soon as the courier had

left, Zawadski telephoned London to give the time of arrival for the flight. Once it had landed, Cuevas began the next task of funneling the money through the banking system.

He paid the cash into a branch of Citibank in the Strand. From there it was wired back to American accounts. Citibank staff became familiar with Cuevas who appeared two or three times a week just before closing time.

But the bank became worried by the trading pattern, suspecting they were being used to provide a "wash account". They closed the Cuevas account.

Although they were suspicious, banking law on client privacy prevented them going to the police. Cuevas moved to a branch of the American Express Bank in Grosvenor Square. Money from that account passed to a second account at the Republic National Bank of New York, which was used to wire the cash on in to nominee accounts.

It seemed perfect, but thanks to a British customs man called Bob Snuggs it was all to coming crashing down.

Stewart Tandler

HOW A CUSTOMS MAN CLOSED THE LAUNDRY

Bob Snuggs is the customs man whose alertness led to the collapse of the dirty money operation. Patient work and a lucky break was to show that such networks can be unravelled.

In the autumn of 1984 he stopped a Colombian called Carlos Guzman, who was carrying \$300,000 and apparently worked for a firm called International Business and Trade Inc. Guzman was Oscar Cuevas's main courier.

Customs were running an exercise aimed at halting Colombian cocaine smugglers from Florida. Guzman was allowed to go but Snuggs suspected he had stumbled on cocaine money. The Colombian had begun his journey in Bogota and stopped over in Miami. A few months before, another Colombian, working for the same company, had been stopped at Heathrow. He was

carrying \$170,000. The US Customs were alerted. Guzman was arrested at Los Angeles airport, along with Ernesto Zawadski, the network's warehouseman.

Alerted in London that something was wrong, Oscar Cuevas and his brother had flown by Concorde to New York and caught a flight to Los Angeles, which they reached before the agents could get warrants to search Zawadski's apartment, where they eventually discovered \$1,083 million stacked in cupboards ready to travel.

Zawadski's records took agents to another courier whose travel details led Snuggs to a man called Gomez living in Eaton Square. By the time the customs man arrived, Gomez — also known as Oscar Cuevas — had fled, but

Snuggs found connections to the Citibank operation. Cuevas was now fitting in and out of London operating from a second London flat, still trying to operate. But a third courier was stopped in London. Cuevas flew to Switzerland to empty his accounts and the police were waiting.

The Americans had cracked codes in Zawadski's records which showed the existence of Swiss accounts. The Swiss authorities traced and froze them. Cuevas arrived in Geneva, unaware of this, to draw money. Refused cash, he travelled to his Zurich bank to find out why and was held.

In all, \$3 million was recovered — but the customs officers know \$25 million moved through the system in five months in 1984. The search is still going on along the many conduits.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1128

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

ACROSS

- Make useless (8)
- Satch (4)
- Jewelled eggs maker (7)
- Swindle (5)
- Be superior (5)
- Bare people (5)
- Inane (5)
- Echolocation device (5)
- Keepsake (5)
- Irritate (5)
- Departure (5)
- Egyptian pillar (7)
- Always (4)
- Edible snail (8)

DOWN

- Make less hard (6)
- Take load from (8)
- Seaman (3)
- Casement doors (6,7)
- Stink (4)
- Plant study (6)
- Washing up area (8)
- Altimeter (6)
- Agreeable (8)
- Well-groomed (6)
- Coffin (6)
- Years (4)
- Epoch (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1127

ACROSS: 1 Schuss 5 Hijack 8 Too 9 Tundra 10 Vagary 11 Peer 12 Blumie 14 General Franco 17 Lotterer 18 Wrap 21 Tip-off 23 Alight 24 ECG 25 Fender 26 Overdo

DOWN: 2 Chute 3 Underwent 4 Stumps 5 Howel 6 Jig 7 Chronic 13 Meanwhile 15 Enroute 16 Farnago 18 Roder 20 Aphid 22 Odd

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Empress of all she surveys

Starting a business is one thing, building an empire is another. Sally Brompton met three women who thought big and made it big

Maureen Foers decided to start up her own business after she was fired from her job as managing executive of an employment agency for being "too ambitious". Her aunt lent her £500, she rented an office in Hull for £200 a quarter and hired someone to help her two mornings a week.

Fifteen years on, her company is the largest private commercial training organization in the country, incorporating four different enterprises, with an annual turnover of more than £250,000.

The fact that she was ambitious, as well as possessing the necessary energy and experience, earmarked 47-year-old Foers for success. It was, however, her ability to diversify which enabled her to excel.

For Foers belongs to a rare breed of women who have the courage to utilize their skills in more than a single direction and who, by so doing, create not just a business but an empire.

They thrive, these empresses, on a cross-section of challenges without losing touch with their original base. Their empires can be large or small; what counts is the fact that they have the nerve to indulge their imaginations and the skill to come out on top.

Maureen Foers's resourcefulness led her from one bright idea to the next. "Having opened the staff bureau, I found I had more jobs than people, so I decided that if I couldn't find the person to fit the job I'd create the person," she says.

She re-trained, for nothing, women who had quit their careers and then found them work afterwards. She then discovered that while some companies wanted work done only occasionally, there were women who wanted to work just a few hours a day, so by employing them herself on a temporary basis she was able to offer organizations a complete office service ranging from typing and book-keeping to photocopying and taking telephone messages.

Then she decided to go into the direct mail business, providing specialist facilities for bulk mail, direct mail, direct mail advertising and sending out companies marketing literature.

At this stage, she had another idea. "I was under the impression that there was a big need for creches

and if I wanted people to be able to work for me or my clients I ought to make provision for young children." She bought a former children's nursery and reopened it as a creche catering for around 30 toddlers. To her surprise the vast majority of people who used it were not working mothers, but simply parents who wanted to pursue their social lives or have a rest from their young off-spring.

Foers's empire blossomed — based primarily on her employment agency — until the mid-seventies, when the economic depression meant there were no jobs in the north. "The bottom totally fell out of my staff bureau," she recalls, "but because people were cutting back on their staff, my office services and mailing services started to develop quite considerably." Even so, she had a "horrendous" two years — "but if you can survive that sort of a crisis you can go on forever."

All of a sudden the training side of her business took off, because with so few jobs around, only well-qualified applicants had a chance. So she started charging to train people, but now does her utmost to find them a job free subsequently.

Looking at her career objectively she says: "I should probably have concentrated on one thing, but if I had I wouldn't still be around. I'm certain about that. It's very rare that all four of my enterprises are as successful at the same time. At least two, if not three, are always very healthy."

Sylvia Holder laid the foundations of her empire in the tiny spare bedroom of her North London flat. She was 37, with an impressive track record in public relations in Britain, Hong Kong and South Africa, but admits she was daunted at the prospect of starting up in business on her own in London.

She and her partner each invested £250 in the company and began writing letters to everyone they could think of. "Even though I was nervous I was still fairly arrogant about it," recalls Holder, now 47. "It never really occurred to me that we might have to sit there twiddling our thumbs."

Their first PR account, a leading Chelsea restaurant, came from answering a classified advertise-



Sweet smiles of success: Sylvia Holder (left) and Lindsay Swan, empire builders in PR and sandwiches

ment in *The Times*. A Mayfair hairdresser and Trusthouse Forte followed. "I suppose a lot of it was simply having the confidence," recalls Holder. "We were extremely lucky but didn't realise it."

Her partner left after having a baby and Holder joined forces with Lindsay Swan, with whom she had worked in South Africa. "We never wanted a Mayfair-type of success with a big staff," says Holder, "but it mattered very much that Holder Swan succeeded — and that we succeeded by doing the kind of work we enjoy, which is basically travel PR."

They moved to an office in north west London which had a leaking roof but enough space to employ a secretary — which gave them the idea of starting up an answering service. "We really didn't have enough work to keep a secretary occupied full-time, and as we could never leave the office unattended it occurred to us that we might as well take other people's calls at the same time," says Holder. "It did seem a bit like money for old rope."

They advertised the service in *Yellow Pages* and "business blossomed — not enough to keep us going on its own, but we didn't want it to become too large". Today the service has around 50 clients who

pay an average subscription of £18 a month.

Spurred on by the simplicity and success of the answering service, they decided to buy a sandwich bar. They paid £7,000 for the five-year lease on a sandwich bar off Fleet Street. "We decided to make it a bit more upmarket with decent bread, home-made soup and good meals," says Swan, aged 33.

Within weeks turnover tripled, but then they began having problems with the people who were managing it. "It soon dawned on us that you have to be there yourself to run something like that properly," says Holder. "We still regard PR as our priority but we were spending every weekend making soup."

"I remember once we got a call from the sandwich bar manager who had cut his arm and wanted us to rush down there just as we were about to run a press conference for a major client. Things like that happened all the time and PR always won."

After two years they decided they had had enough and sold the bar for more than twice the sum they had originally paid for it. "Overall we lost about £1,500 on the entire episode," says Swan. "It taught us that you run your own show — which is what we do in PR."

By now their PR business was

flourishing, concentrated mainly around the travel industry. Their accounts included the English Tourist Board, a safari tour operator, a consortium of South Coast seaside resorts and the Chichester Theatre.

Even so, the temptation to extend their talents remained, and since they already had the necessary infrastructure they decided to start a humorous greetings card company producing initially over 100,000 cards, which they sold through agents assisted by their own publicity. With their empire expanding they began a weekly publication called *Travel Communique*, charging other travel PRs a fee to insert their clients' press releases, and then sending it to Britain's top 500 travel writers.

While public relations, which now brings them a turnover of £100,000 a year, remains their first love, Holder admits: "I suppose I've always had this insatiable appetite to flirt with something else although Lindsay is more cautious. What matters to us more than anything is that we're doing things we enjoy — and that goes for the type of PR account we handle, too. The great thing about being on your own is that you can choose."

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Whose fight is it, anyway?

Violence between spouses, says Barbara Amiel, is a problem for them to resolve

Perhaps I am alone in this, but I couldn't help feeling some empathy with the silly spectacle Mr and Mrs Shilton made of themselves recently. There but for the grace of being a sound sleeper, I thought, go I.

It seems that Mr Peter Shilton, the 37-year-old Southampton goalkeeper who has also captained England, awarded himself a late night out after his team finally managed a first division win. His early morning return was not greeted enthusiastically by his wife, Sue, and after an exchange which may have involved some physical blows, Mrs Shilton made a 999 call and Mr Shilton spent a few hours in the local police cells.

Come morning, when Mrs Shilton might have been expected to lay assault charges, she was repentant. "I did not understand the implications of my actions," she is reported to have said. "I regret them now." The police sent the goalkeeper home, and he was later photographed snuggling up to his wife. "There was an incident — I'm not denying that," the tabloids had Shilton confessing, "but my wife and I are very happy together."

For my money, whatever domestic violence took place between the Shiltons is their own business. The fact that they called in the police and spent some of my tax pounds having an enforced cooling off period is unfortunate, but at least the state acted in a reasonably benign role. Of course, there is a different sort of domestic violence far uglier, frightening, and systematic which requires a more serious response from society. The problem is that some of the new initiatives now being proposed to deal with it may create more problems than they solve.

I have always felt that one of the great myths of our time is that modern society is indifferent to domestic violence. It is true that long ago women were regarded as chattels; but violence against one's spouse was only condoned in times when defacing Westminster Abbey or consorting with gypsies was punishable by a penalty close to death. Today the shockingly light punishments for spousal assault are often simply another example of the permissive sentencing attitudes that have affected all crimes in the past 20 or 30 years.

Some people believe that the solution to ending violence between married couples was to make it legal for husbands and wives to testify against each other in court and so, in 1984, spouses were made compellable witnesses.

For many of us, this was a truly black moment both in the development of British jurisprudence and in the integrity of the family. For hundreds of years, society had valued the strength of the family unit to such an extent that it was felt better a man go innocent of high treason — never mind socking his wife — rather than be convicted on his spouse's testimony. But in fact, most spouses who do not want to testify against their husbands still do not; they go into the witness box as hostile witnesses, revealing as little as they possibly can.

This being so, the emphasis in obtaining domestic violence convictions has now shifted to the police. In the past, the police have been allowed great discretion in charging spouses with assault. It was this discretionary factor that saved Mr Shilton's neck. Now there is a movement afoot to put the onus on the police to lay charges regardless of whether or not spouses change their minds after the black eye subsides.

Whether this is effective or not is anyone's guess. The Americans say that cases of domestic violence are reduced now that the police are readier to lay charges, but this may be because fewer people call the police when they need help in cooling down a situation.



Not many wives want to see their husbands in jail.

To start encouraging the police to lay charges when spouses are unwilling to do so seems to me an ill-advised policy. Allowances ought to be made for the fact that people have different sorts of relationships with one another, some of which may well be more volatile than others. Common sense suggests that if the incident is not severe or does not involve weapons, it is far more conducive to a good relationship to let the spouses resolve the situation by themselves.

This does not mean a policy of benign neglect to all domestic row: counsel couples by all means, encourage the testimony of battered wives and give meaningful guarantees of safety to women who are really scared of their husbands. But an arms-length attitude to the complexities of the human heart, as the Shiltons would probably agree, is eminently sensible.

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BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Twinning ways

Multiple births are more common now than ever before, thanks to fertility drugs and test-tube techniques. But while twins may spell twice the happiness for a new mother, they can also be double the trouble: two babies need extra equipment, clothing and often the enthusiasm of paid help to assist an overworked mum. The Twins and Multiple Births Association exists to give support and encouragement to these harassed parents, as well as to promote understanding within the medical profession of the problems of multiple births. The association can be contacted c/o Mrs Dee Hoeson, 54 Broad Lane, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 3BG.

Tycoon tips

"Most housewives are very good cooks, very good at sewing, very good at knitting and at amusing children — all these things are in short supply in Britain and can be put into a business if only you think about it." That is the view of Patricia Grant, who put her own homely skills to good use by setting up a

freezer business. Her company, Norfrost Freezers, had a turnover of £5.9 million in 1985 and she employs 120 people.

Her skills have made her a female tycoon, and an insight into how she has made it to the top in business is to be found in a book published this week called, aptly, *Female Tycoons* (Routledge, £4.95). Author Rosemary Burr has interviewed Anita Brodick, Prue Leith, Patricia Grant and nine others in an attempt to unearth what makes successful businesswomen tick, and there is ample advice for the ambitious on how to join them.

Quote me . . .



"Denis can say many of the things I could not possibly say. I sometimes roar with laughter when I hear his views coming out into the open. It's terrific, because they are the views so many people have and I think that, while I have to be a bit more circumspect as Prime Minister, thank goodness someone has expressed them" — Margaret Thatcher.

French polish

French skincare experts Lancôme have added luxury hair care to their comprehensive range of body products. The Flange line, which costs from £6.75 to £12.50, includes two shampoos, a Soin Milky Conditioner, and the highlight of the range, Creme Substantielle, an active revitalizing conditioning treatment.

Staying put

The appeal of foreign travel has become slightly tarnished in the face of sliding exchange rates — so don't overlook home attractions. The British Tourist Authority has just published its annual recommendations of country hotels, restaurants and guesthouses in the 1987 *Compendium Guide*; find it at bookshops, or by post from the Finance Department, BTA, Thames Tower, London W6 9EL (£4.50 including p&p).

Quick cooks

Arthritis can easily turn the joy of cooking into a nightmare. The charity Arthritis Care has compiled a cookbook of practical, quick recipes — mainly tasty combinations of convenience foods. Priced £2.95, available from WH Smith and other leading newsagents, its simplicity is ideal for anyone with a long-term disability — and the clever easel design means it stands up for easy reading.

Josephine Fairley

FRIDAY

The mothers who are giving birth to death

On Monday Dec. 15th our Piccadilly Fur Superstore is closing down to allow work to start on replacing our shop-front. And that gives us just 5 days to clear the whole store and make room for the builders. Which, in turn, gives you an unparalleled choice of superb furs at equally unparalleled prices... just in time for Christmas.

Some bargain prices also available at our Sloane Street salon.

We also offer 12 months' interest-free credit with no deposit on purchases over £350, subject to status.

All major credit cards accepted.

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TO TEAR OUT OUR SHOP-FRONT, WE'RE BEING FORCED TO TEAR UP OUR PRICE LIST

SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR OFFER PRICES AT PICCADILLY AND KNIGHTSBRIDGE	LAST BARGAIN PRICE	Closing down price
30 FUR-LINED RAINCOATS RRP £999	£199	£99
35 CHAMPAGNE FOX JACKETS RRP £1,295	£295	£129
12 MINK DYED MUSQUASH JACKETS RRP £1,350	£495	£135
50 REVERSIBLE FUR-LINED RAINCOATS WITH HOOD RRP £1,995	£499	£199
12 MINK DYED MUSQUASH COATS RRP £1,999	£499	£199
42 BLUE FOX JACKETS RRP £1,350	£499	£199
6 MINK THREE QTRS. RRP £2,650	£550	£265
12 STRANDED RACCOON THREE QTRS. RRP £3,995	£795	£399
45 MINK COATS RRP £3,250	£999	£499
7 TWO-TONE MINK JACKETS RRP £5,950	£1,295	£595
6 STRANDED RACCOON COATS RRP £5,575	£1,495	£557
38 MAHOGANY MINK COATS RRP £6,850	£1,550	£895
15 STRANDED SILVER FOX COATS RRP £11,950	£1,795	£1,195
50 STRANDED FEM SAGA MINK COATS - ALL COLOURS RRP £10,950	£3,350	£1,995

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THE TIMES DIARY

Second thoughts

Did Mrs Thatcher, despite TV-am's opinion poll, suffer a momentary crisis of confidence yesterday? In her address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg she noted with pleasure that she was the first European head of government to serve two six-month terms as president of the EEC council of ministers. An early draft of her speech reveals that she originally intended to add that she was looking forward to a third term in 1992; in the event she passed on to other matters. Has the Wright affair clouded her conviction that she can lead the Tories to another election victory?

Smoked out

Sacked from his £11,500 community liaison officer job with Knowsley council, stripped of his Labour Party membership and deputy leadership of Liverpool council (worth £4,000 in allowances), Derek Hatton now faces further humiliation. Richard Pine, Liberal deputy leader on Liverpool council, is concerned that Hatton is still picking up £3,000 a year as chairman of the Mersey-side Fire Service Joint Board. Hatton is supporting industrial action over the loss of 88 jobs in the fire service resulting from a recent reorganization. Next week, Pine will propose that Liverpool council withdraw Hatton's nomination to the board. "The Labour councillors have promised to have nothing more to do with Hatton. Since he is no longer part of the Labour group he cannot possibly be its nominee," Pine says.

Really...

It has taken 400 years, but someone has got his revenge on Sir Walter Raleigh for defacing Queen Elizabeth's palace windows by scratching them with amorous messages. Less creative vandals have made two large holes in a stained glass window in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, dedicated to Sir Walter.

Name game

Members of the Commons select committee on the Treasury and Civil Service are rubbing their eyes over the name plate on the desk of their chairman. They are convinced it used to read Terence Higgins. Now it says T.L. Higgins. Could Higgins, noted for his sympathetic attitude to homosexual rights, be embarrassed at sharing his name with an Aids charity? "There has been no change at all," Higgins says.

BARRY FANTONI



In the know

Sir Edward Gardner's private member's bill proposing a British human rights bill has attracted interest from an unlikely quarter. On Monday he was visited by Valeri Krasnov, a Soviet embassy official, who told him of the Kremlin's plan to stage an international conference on humanitarian issues and asked if the relevant papers on the Gardner bill could be sent to the Soviet ambassador in Vienna. "And could you tell us the British government's reaction to the conference?" asked Krasnov. "I suggested he might better be able to inform me," says Gardner.

Eye to eyeball

I gather that the compilers of Robert Maxwell's spoof mag *Not Private Eye* - out today - had planned to give former *Private Eye* editor Richard Ingrams a taste of his own medicine by publishing his home number. They were dissuaded, I hear, only after Peter Jay, Maxwell's right-hand man, received a call from Ingrams - a pal of Jay's from Oxford days. *Eye* editor Ian Hislop says: "Ingrams threatened, if provoked, to print the numbers of all Maxwell's family, his doctor and dentist."

Off the cuff

Ronald Reagan's plummeting popularity does not seem to have affected interest in one of his old dinner jackets - now on offer through a classified ad in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The owner, sports writer Greg Woodbridge, brought the jacket, made by Albert Mariani, in a Beverly Hills second-hand shop for \$5. He tells me that offers of up to \$900 are pouring in but he is holding out. "Ten thousand seems like a tidy sum." Odd that the jacket should have been thus neglected: one of Nancy's first telephone calls after the assassination attempt on her husband was to Mariani ordering a new suit.

PHS

North: a hero traduced

by Patrick J. Buchanan

Washington
Of all the lurid features in the tapestry of Contragate, perhaps the most revealing is the behaviour of the Republican Party establishment, which owes all it has and all it is to Ronald Reagan. With a few honourable exceptions - Senators Strom Thurmond and Ted Stevens come to mind - they have all gone virtually into hiding.

Men who are Chairman This and Senator That only because of Reagan are now making their future support of this embattled president conditional on their non-negotiable demand that he sack some of his oldest and closest friends.

Before the midterm elections only one month ago, this 75-year-old president was travelling the nation as no other president before him, fighting to save the Senate for these selfsame incumbent Republicans. Among those he personally supported were some who had cut and run on him in every major engagement he has fought since he came to the White House.

Is this how they repay the leader who has done more for the Republican Party than any American since Theodore Roosevelt.

who brought it back from Watergate to become the party of vision and opportunity, the party of Middle America and the young - when all the pundits were saying it was finished for a generation?

If elemental loyalty cannot convince these Republicans to stand up and speak out for Reagan, what truly think the investigative engines of a hostile Congress and the artillery of an adversary press are again being wheeled into position simply "to get at the truth"? Do they seriously believe those pious declarations from the Democratic left that "we must not have another failed presidency"? That is exactly what they want: the destruction of a Republican presidency for the second time within a generation.

"This is the most fun we've had since Watergate," Ben Bradlee, editor of the *Washington Post*, is reported as saying. Bradlee is echoed by columnist Michael Kinsley: "The fall of Reagan is a laughing matter. The only irritating aspect of the otherwise delightful collapse of the Reagan

administration is the widespread insistence that we must all be poker-faced about it."

"People in my position have been known to run for cover," declares Republican Senator Rudy Boschwitz in one of the great understatement of the episode.

In recent years, Republican candidates have taken to prattling at election time about their devotion to "family values". The first of those values, surely, is family loyalty. So when a mob gathers in the front garden, howling for the head of the household, the sons do not force him to sit at a table and write a list of his "mistakes". They start firing from the upper floors.

But we are a nation founded in law, and Colonel Oliver North has broken the law, comes the Republican retort; surely, we cannot condone that. But we don't know that North did in fact break the law.

We do know of some Americans who broke the law: those who, a century ago, ran escaped slaves up the Underground Railroad to Canada - they broke the law, so did Franklin Roosevelt when he

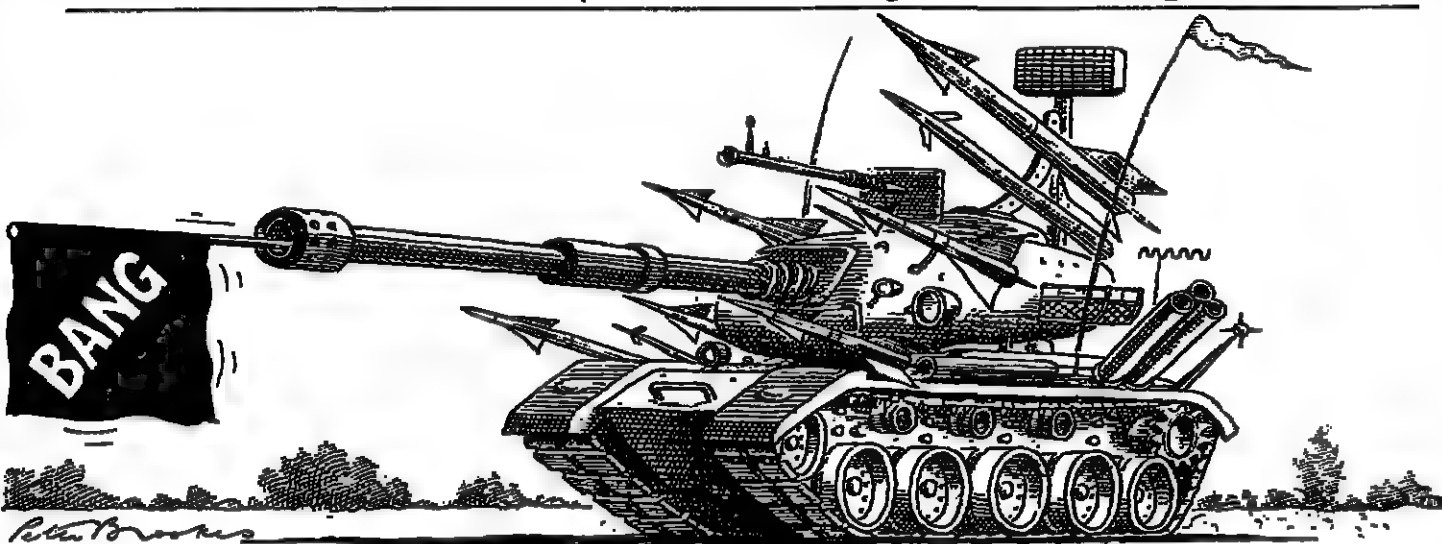
secretly ordered American destroyers to hunt down German submarines in the Atlantic during the Second World War and to relay the information to the British fleet; so did those Americans who ran guns to the Jews in Palestine in 1947 and 1948.

But how are they seen today? Not as law breakers but as heroes. And Oliver North is a hero, a man who saw further than others and took risks with his own career because he knew that in helping the anti-Sandinista army in Nicaragua he was buying time for his own distracted and indifferent countrymen - "hold the fort alone, till those who are half blind are half ready."

Oliver North is now disparaged as a "cowboy", a rogue, a "soldier of fortune" by our lords temporal in Congress and our lords spiritual in the press. Well, the day the United States ceases to produce soldiers of the kidney and spleen and heart and soul of Oliver North is the day it begins an irreversible decline.

The president was right. Oliver North is an American hero, and I am proud to know him as a friend. The writer is White House communications director.

Andrew McEwen on the dilemma facing Nato's foreign ministers



Can we trust Moscow over troop cuts?

Rarely has an issue of such fundamental importance failed so completely to penetrate the consciousness of the western public as that facing Nato tomorrow.

The foreign ministers of the alliance meet in Brussels to consider the future of conventional arms reductions talks. The big question is how to respond to a Warsaw Pact proposal that one million troops should be withdrawn from Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals. Presented in those simplistic terms the question seems to answer itself. Who could be against it? Who would dare speak against it?

Indeed, has the point been conceded already? There are those who argue that as Nato took the initiative last May, it can hardly backtrack now. Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the North Atlantic Council called for "bold new steps in the field of conventional arms control". The Warsaw Pact responded with its "Budapest Appeal" which greatly raised the stakes. In reality, however, it is the Brussels meeting that will determine whether Nato is ready to talk in such ambitious terms.

Many believe that the issues at stake are as important as those confronted at the Reykjavik summit. Nuclear arms control may hold a monopoly of glamour but, without parallel progress in conventional force reductions, it is unlikely to enhance European security.

Lord Carrington, the Nato secretary general, commented in an interview this week: "No one seems to worry about conventional weapons any more. So many nuclear disarmers seem concerned only with nuclear weapons; they almost seem to suggest that conventional warfare is acceptable. No one who lived through the last world war would agree."

The risk at Brussels is that more time will be spent on forums than fundamentals. Before focusing on the forum for arms talks, the ministers need to consider whether the West can risk thinking

along the lines proposed in the Budapest Appeal at all.

After 13 years of stalemate in the existing mutual balance force reductions talks (MBFR) in Vienna there are those who argue that both the Halifax and the Budapest lines of thought are wildly over-ambitious.

George Shultz, Sir Geoffrey Howe and 14 other foreign ministers have to decide whether Gorbachev essentially wants agreement or not. If so, the Budapest Appeal will be welcomed; if not, the West risks being drawn into a public relations trap.

A considerable leap of faith will be required at Brussels to overcome two fundamental objections. First, the Soviet Union has always opposed all attempts to verify conventional arms reductions. It is on this issue that the MBFR talks are currently deadlocked. As the Vienna talks involve only token force reductions, how can the West hope for a breakthrough when a million troops are in question?

Secondly, there is strong but unproven suspicion in Whitehall that Moscow may have hidden motives for proposing such dramatic cuts. Last December Nato submitted proposals designed to unblock the MBFR talks, which for years had been deadlocked over differences between Nato's estimate of the number of Warsaw Pact troops in Central Europe and the Pact's own figures.

Without agreement on what was called the "data question", it is impossible to name a starting point from which troop cuts

should be counted. The new British-sponsored Nato plan swallowed these doubts and switched the focus to verification. Whitehall analysts now say the Pact is in a corner: if it is in earnest it has no reason to refuse.

The same sources see the Budapest Appeal as a diversion in which the key issue is the forum for future talks. The Appeal offered three suggestions. One was an expanded version of MBFR, the other two involved offshoots of the 35-nation CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) forum which grew out of the 1975 Helsinki conference initiated by Brezhnev.

Subsequent statements by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, have shown a wish to wrap up MBFR and switch the talks to CSCE or another forum generally known as CDE-2. The latter would be modelled on the Stockholm talks which last year produced an agreement to give advance warning of military exercises.

The point made by the sceptics is that by "moving the goalposts" Moscow avoids conceding the vital verification issue. Switching to a forum that includes non-aligned nations, Moscow could reasonably hope for a more sympathetic attitude on verification. The argument is certain to appear unduly suspicious and over-technical.

But the sceptics have a second point. They see Moscow's tactics on nuclear and conventional arms proposals as part of a single strategy to gain the moral high

ground in western public opinion, pointing to Gorbachev's refusal to accept a nuclear arms deal at Reykjavik unless Washington abandoned the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Since the summit it has become clear that Moscow, Western Europe and Washington could agree on far-ranging nuclear cuts without compromising the British and French deterrents and without stripping away the American strategic nuclear umbrella.

Lord Carrington is not among the sceptics but he did decline himself troubled by the link with SDI. Without sharing the view that Moscow's refusal so far to accept verification within the MBFR talks undermines its credibility, Lord Carrington believes it would be dangerous folly to accept any agreement that excluded it.

"The whole problem is one of distrust on both sides. The only way you can build up confidence is through agreements in which it is certain that neither side can cheat. Verification is the nub of the issue," he said.

Lord Carrington, in common with high Whitehall sources, believes that the Budapest Appeal will find a positive response at Brussels, and that there will then be a long wrangle over the forum issue. The ministers will not want to end the MBFR talks, he thinks, but will see them as the wrong forum for an Atlantic-to-the-Urals discussion. The need to include France, which has always refused to have anything to do with MBFR, lends support to the CSCE or CDE-2 suggestion.

Whitehall sources predict that it will not be possible to make Soviet acceptance of verification a precondition for talks within a new forum. The best that can be expected is "good verification language" in the terms of reference. The importance of Brussels, say the sceptics, is that it may be the West's last chance to prevent verification slipping from its grasp.

The author is Diplomatic Correspondent of The Times.

she could well isolate them from the extremists.

The role played by her new cabinet, whose composition is still to be announced, will play a pivotal role in ensuring the army's confidence. Much of its hostility to the civilian government is the result of previous appointments. Aquilino Pimentel, the former Minister for Local Government, for example, appointed dozens of left-wing local government officials who did their best to impede the army's anti-insurgency campaign.

A strong cabinet would encourage General Ramos to undertake the wide-ranging reforms needed to purge the army of its endemic cronyism, corruption and factionalism, and turn it into a professional fighting force. If disaffected officers feared a purge from above they would have less reason for undermining the peace negotiations.

The ceasefire is designed to extend beyond the February 2 plebiscite on the new constitution. If it holds, it will be the first time since the introduction of martial law that the Philippine electorate will go to a ballot free from fear of the gun. Should Mrs Aquino get that far, the Philippines will have taken the first real step towards political stability and eventual economic recovery.

David Watts and Michael Dynes

Alastair Kilmarnock

A strategy for Aids

Aids is not a plague in the medieval sense since it is transmitted only through certain identified routes. Though insidious and lethal, it is not yet a catastrophe. But it could become one.

When they debate Aids today, the Lords must be aware that this catastrophe can be averted only if the campaign against it is conducted simultaneously on three fronts - educational, medical and scientific - within the framework of a national strategic plan.

The government has begun well on one front, public education, for which it is giving £20 million. But from this welcome initiative a number of consequences flow. In some hospitals the voluntary demand for testing has already increased fourfold. After 23 million leaflets have been posted, backed up by television advertising, this figure could well quadruple again. A successful campaign will inevitably exert increasing pressure on the already underfunded and overstretched clinics treating sexually transmitted diseases and on voluntary bodies. To meet these pressures, steps must be taken now.

Immediate action is also necessary to deal with the growing number of Aids victims. The number of people in Britain carrying the Aids virus is now put at anywhere between 30,000 and 100,000. Estimates vary of the number likely to contract the disease, but even at the lower level the system will face inevitable demands over the next five years, even if a vaccine were discovered tomorrow.

This year there have been 600 Aids patients and the number is expected to double annually. That means there will be nearly 20,000 cases by 1991.

The most reliable current calculation of the total cost of an Aids patient to the NHS is £18,000; therefore 20,000 cases will cost £360 million, against the 1986 expenditure of £11 million (not all of which has been met from special funds).

The Social Services Secretary has asked all health authorities to submit their plans for dealing with Aids by the end of this month. They will find this difficult because their plans must depend largely on his. They want training grades opened up to provide the staff that will be needed for the many thousands more patients; they want facilities which match each phase of the disease, including new in-patient clinics with day beds. But they fear these will be provided only at the expense of other commitments, which would set colleague against colleague and could lead to a public backlash.

The Secretary of State must therefore make totally clear that Aids funding will not just be carved out of the main NHS budget. New money must be committed and an efficient and speedy system must be devised

within the national strategic plan - which does not yet exist - to target it effectively.

The action initiated on the public information front is on the right lines but the medical and scientific fronts are seriously under-resourced and under-managed. I would therefore propose something on the following lines. The DHSS should remain the lead department, with its Aids Unit the national command post. To avoid the present mismatch between rapidly changing health authority needs and set allocations from above, the authorities should be able to tell the Aids Unit how much they need, and the unit to respond in line with the national plan.

This plan would be negotiated by the Secretary of State with the Cabinet on the recommendation of a National Aids Council, constituted from elements of the Chief Medical Officer's present advisory committee, supplemented by health economists and presided over by the Minister for Health. Its main job would be to recommend, on the basis of all the national and international facts available, the level of Aids-related funding on a medium-term basis of not less than three years.

Once this was approved or modified at Cabinet level, it would be the task of the Aids Unit to ensure that allocations were made rapidly and applied by the regions and districts. Expert sub-committees should recommend the level of government-funded research and deal with the needs of voluntary bodies, possibly in liaison with a new fund-raising charity.

Of course, someone in government might devise a better model. But some such strategic structure is essential. To any accusation of over-centralization I would respond that bids will come from the bottom up and implementation will owe everything to personal responsibility and local effort.

On funding, my guess is that in 1987/88 NHS revenue costs, plus some capital spending and increases of say £5 million each for research and voluntary bodies, would indicate a total of about £60 million (including the £20 million information campaign). In time appropriate levels would emerge from the framework I am suggesting because we would be asking the right questions and getting closer to the right answers.

This is the sort of approach, not panicky but alert and determined, that the public will expect from government of whatever hue, or indeed of mixed hue, as we head into the 1990s. This way we have a good chance of avoiding catastrophe. Without a strategy and the money to back it the prospects are grim indeed.

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Lord Kilmarnock is deputy leader of the SDP peers and its spokesman in the Lords on health and social services.

Philip Howard

Muezzin of the paperback

Men have authority over women because God has made them superior, and because they support the women financially. Men are better than women. Good women are obedient. They guard their private parts because God has guarded them. If you have women you suspect are going to disobey you, admonish them, send them to a separate bed, and beat them.

Those hearty precepts come from the chapter on women in the Koran, which is full of much other helpful advice. Of course there is also such obsolete prescription in Leviticus, and other private parts of the Bible. The difference is that not even the most fanatical Jews or Bible-belt Christians follow to the letter laws designed for a primitive nomadic tribe. It is depressing that so many people still take as infallible even the dotter words of Allah, as revealed to Mahomet by the Angel Gabriel more than 13 centuries ago.

Napoleon said that Mohammedanism was less ridiculous than Christianity. But he was on St Helena and depressed at the time, and in any case he was sounder on artillery than theology. These are matters of personal taste and cultural conditioning. Perhaps the Western European subconscious is still haunted by the threat of Islam, and folk memories of the Battle of Tours, where Charles the Hammer turned the Saracen tide. If he hadn't, "perhaps the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford, and her pulpits might demonstrate to a circumscribed people the sanctity and truth of the revelation of Mahomet."

I am a Western European. And to me Mohammedanism seems, if not quite as silly as Buddhism, nor as mischievous and mad as the extreme, enthusiastic sects of Christianity, nevertheless the most harmful and dangerous of the First Division monotheistic religions.

You can judge for yourselves, in one of the success stories of the book game, which is celebrating its prodigious 30th anniversary: N.J. Dawood's translation of the Koran in the Penguin Classics. Nassim Dawood was born in Baghdad in 1927, and came to London on an Iraq state scholarship to read English at London University. His tutor in classical Arabic was a distinguished poet.

young Nassim planned to go home to Baghdad after graduating, and devote his life to translating Shakespeare (for whom he had developed a passion, as a boy, having read *The Merchant of Venice* first, looking up most words in a dictionary) into Arabic. But he fell in with Dr E.V. Rieu, then busily translating Homer and editing the inchoate Penguin Classics. And as a very young man Dawood translated the Koran treated as literature rather than the words of God.

All other English translations are pompous, archaic, reverential and unreadable, except by the enthusiast. Across the language barrier Dawood captured the thunder and poetry of the original in such passages as those dealing with the Day of Judgement and Heaven and Hell. Not even lively, idiomatic English can camouflage the longwindedness of the nit-picking, logic-chopping bits. Rieu and Penguin thought it would run to a single edition. In the event it is now in its 31st edition, and has sold more than a million copies around the world. Pirated editions have been published in Iran and the Lebanon. N.J. Dawood has carried on translating, and runs his London company, which is the major centre for Arabic translations and typesetting outside the Middle East.

Judging literature in translation is like looking at paintings in a smoke-filled room without your contact lenses. Even the best translation is a lie. But from the English translations, the Koran comes third in the league table of holy writings. The Rig Veda is unreadable. The Aeneid is unreadable. The Bible in Greek and the Vulgate is second-rate as literature: I cannot speak for the Hebrew, Aramaic, Syriac, or Coptic. But in English in the Authorized Version, because of the accidents of history, it is one of the supreme glories of world literature; which is not a charge you could make against subsequent versions. The Bible comes second.

But the trouble with both the Koran and the Bible is that they lack wit. I cannot believe in a God who does not laugh. Considered as literature, the best scriptures about the gods are clearly those about the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece, later translated to Rome, and written about by masters from Homer to Ovid.



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DEEDS NOT WORDS

There was an unheroic contrast between the Prime Minister's strong call yesterday for reform of Europe's agricultural policy and the way she allowed the problem to be passed over at last week's European summit in London. The leaders with the real power to promote reform were in London, while the Euro-MPs were in Strasbourg only exercising limited influence in the search for a solution.

It is, however, at least a welcome development that the Euro-MPs have recently come round to acknowledging that reform is necessary. The communiqué from the London summit did not even admit that much — a paragraph to that effect in the draft having been struck out at the behest of the French and Germans, after the briefest possible discussion.

Yet all those involved knew in their hearts that it is imperative for a definitive resolution to be reached within months, if budgetary tensions are not to build up to a point where the basis of the European settlement will be jeopardised. The agreements that were reached in London, on terrorism, drugs, jobs, AIDS and internal free trade — worth-while enough in themselves — are of marginal significance compared to this

central threat to the Community. Half of its expenditure in all categories goes towards the storage and disposal of unwanted food surpluses, and total expenditure is likely to overrun its budget by no less than £3bn next year.

The participants in the London summit treated it like one of those Christmaseve family reunions where the chief preoccupation on all sides is to get through the celebrations without waking any sleeping dogs or letting any skeletons out of cupboards, before dispersing gratefully till next year. But for the European family what is in prospect is not a year's respite, but a year of increasingly desperate intimacy.

The impossibility of making any progress while West Germany was on the edge of a general election was much rehearsed. German Chancellors have lived for many years in holy terror of their farmers and of the populist right. But in a Community of 12 someone is always going to be on the verge of an election. Next time round, it may be us. There will always be arguments for putting off the day.

The problem could not have been solved at a stroke in London, but the leaders could at least have had enough respect for their electorates to warn them that hard decisions were coming. For the truth is that any solution is going to

hurt. The longer an abuse is left unrectified, the harsher it is for its beneficiaries when reality eventually breaks in.

For Britain in particular, in the approach to a general election, hard decisions are inevitable. A high proportion of British farms are already relatively efficient and productive. They thus have nothing to hope for from measures designed to soften the blow to farming communities struggling to survive on adverse terrain. The richer members of the EEC will all have to bear the cost of ensuring that the impact of reform does not fall with disastrous effect on the poorer, less highly mechanised farmers of the Community's new Mediterranean partners.

The sooner action is taken, the more scope there will be to phase in the new regime without too violent a transition. The cost of storing elderly butter eats up resources which ought to be channelled more discriminately to where they are needed through the EEC's regional and social funds.

There will be storms of protest from the farmers, and in Britain at least, few immediate rewards to gratify the main ultimate beneficiary, the taxpayer. But unless Europe's leaders give clear warning of what is coming, and has to come, they will be on weak ground when they have to ask their voters to trust them and accept it.

THE AWACS VARIATION

Nine years ago, the Government of Mr James Callaghan, faced with the need to choose a new air-borne early warning, AEW, aircraft for the RAF, made the wrong decision for the right reasons. The present government must now beware of making the same mistake.

The right decision must now be to buy the Boeing E-3 Awacs, 54 of which are already in service with the United States Air Force, with NATO in Europe and with Saudi Arabia. Boeing is bidding to supply eight of the planes (which are based upon the air frame of the 707 airliner) within 3 years at a cost of up to £1 billion.

To go for this safe but expensive option would mean reversing the 1977 decision to "buy British" — in the shape of the Nimrod alternative. This had been developed by British Aerospace from the old Comet air frame and had already proved itself as a highly successful maritime reconnaissance aircraft — probably the best in the world.

For British Aerospace to team up with GEC who would develop an all-British radar system, seemed at the time a natural solution to the RAF's problems as the Ministry of Defence cast around for a successor to the squadron of elderly AEW Shackletons. The trouble is, as everyone now must know, that the British rival to Awacs has failed to meet RAF requirements and is three years late.

The decision to cut one's losses by cancelling Nimrod and opting belatedly for Awacs is harder than it sounds. With £900 million already spent on

Nimrod, the Ministry of Defence is understandably reluctant to turn its back on one investment and plunge into another even bigger one — especially at a time when money is tight.

To place any government contract outside Britain at a time of high unemployment and with a general election around the corner can hardly sound like good politics to the Defence Secretary, Mr George Younger — though Boeing is apparently willing to offset the Awacs deal with high-tech purchases from British industry. He cannot forget that he entered his sixth floor office at the Ministry earlier this year as the indirect beneficiary of the Westland fiasco — which bore one or two similarities to the present one.

Nor can he view with enthusiasm the inevitable accusation that by giving away the contract now to Boeing, he has "knocked another nail in the coffin of Britain's manufacturing industry". Opposition MPs are already preparing to put him under fire for damaging the country's high-tech potential. It would certainly mean that the monopoly for long-range AEW technology would be given for ever to Boeing and the opportunity to establish a place for Britain in the field would have been lost.

On the other hand, the opportunity has been virtually forfeited already. GEC has had nine years to get it right and still needs a further £500 million to finish the job. It is difficult for any layman to judge the relative merits of the two systems, partly because detailed information of performance is classified and partly

because, even if it were not so, only specialists in the field could make the right kind of assessment. But the indications are that the RAF considers the Awacs system to be technically superior.

The sorry history of Nimrod has so far been one of mutual recrimination. The Ministry of Defence has accused GEC of being over-confident in the first place and of thereby misleading Whitehall. GEC has replied by protesting that the reason it has scored so badly is that the RAF keeps moving the goal posts.

For the RAF to describe its requirements for an AEW system to operate over the North Sea, then to complain that it does not perform well enough over land, seems to GEC to be intolerably perverse. No doubt this is partly true. Yet defence requirements alter with the enemy threat and, in the high technology area, they are liable to alter quickly and often.

Nimrod was never likely to be as comprehensive a solution as was Awacs. The Comet air frame is smaller than that of the 707, which means that its payload (particularly the radar dish it carries) is more restricted. At best, Nimrod looked as if it might just be good enough — as opposed to being a better alternative operationally. To continue pouring money into what was always going to be a poor relation of Awacs would now be a mistake.

Political considerations must enter into any decisions by governments. But in the end it is the quality of the end product in defence matters which must be paramount.

THE RETURN OF THE PLO

The upsurge of violence in the West Bank over the past week has brought to notice once again the discontent of Palestinians living under Israeli rule. What is described as the worst violence in the West Bank since it was occupied in 1967 demonstrates, if demonstration were needed, that resentment over lost territory and lost rights does not die with the generation that sustained the loss.

The youths and, indeed, children throwing stones at Israeli convoys this week have known nothing other than Israeli rule. They claim harassment by Israeli forces; the Israelis claim their universities accommodate and give succour to subversives. There is right, and wrong, on both sides.

Behind the immediate causes of the present conflict is the growing acceptance by Palestinians that international recognition of their cause has gone as far as it can go; that the hopes generated by the Jordanian-sponsored initiative are now dead; and that Jordan, by promising economic assistance to the occupied West Bank, is in effect underwriting the Israeli occupation. They are, as they have always done, to the figure of Yasser Arafat, the one leader who has

not appeared to compromise their cause.

In recent weeks they will have been able to take courage from the victories of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Liberation Organization in southern Lebanon. The reinfiltration of the PLO into Lebanon has been accomplished over months rather than weeks. But its latest successes, in and around the refugee camps of Beirut, show that despite its factionalism, the mystique of the PLO is still strong and the figure of Yasser Arafat, in the absence of any other plausible leader, still commands authority.

The resurgence of the PLO poses a dilemma for Israel and Syria. Both have a continuing interest in curbing the Palestinian influence in Lebanon, partly for reasons of their own national security, partly — in the case of Israel — to discourage a resurgence of overt nationalism among the Palestinians of the occupied territories. However, both have to balance their commitment to what many see as a lost foreign cause — a stable Lebanon — with the cost in terms of economic stability and public opinion at home.

Israel scaled down its presence in Lebanon two years ago when the cost of involvement

became too great. Syria faces a similar choice today. Its economy is too weak, and its political situation may be too delicate, to support further intervention. Yet further intervention, either by Israel or by Syria, will be considered desirable by some if the PLO is not to become the destabilising force it was in Lebanon five years ago.

Yet the origins of the present uncertainty in the Middle East probably go beyond Syria to the setback experienced by the United States following the exposure of its dealings with Iran. The legality and moral considerations of the covert diplomacy aside, overt US influence held much in place. It acted as a restraint on Israel in its settlement of the West Bank, and it curbed Syrian influence by involving it, albeit indirectly, in the diplomatic process.

Now that US influence and authority in the Middle East have been weakened, at least for the time being, two of the most prominent players — Syria and Israel — have been left with pause for reflection. It is a pause the Palestinians have been able to exploit. It is a mark of how limited their influence remains, however, that the violence has been as circumscribed as it has.

Striking a balance in nuclear role

From the Director of the West European Defence Association
Sir, Mr Neil Kinnock in his US tour has accused NATO Supreme Commander, General Bernard Rogers, of attempting to influence the "conduct of events in constituent democracies within the NATO Alliance" (report, December 5).

General Rogers, in conjunction with all Alliance members, is responsible for NATO's strategy, protection and forward planning. In an interview with a German magazine to which Mr Kinnock alluded, General Rogers quite correctly questioned the outcome for NATO and the US commitment to Europe should the unilateralist policies of the Labour Party be implemented.

It was precisely to influence US political thinking — particularly on matters of defence as we go toward a general election — that Mr Kinnock's visit was undertaken. Hence his heavy emphasis on explaining his party's unilateralist policies.

In wishing to retain the right to criticise the US presence in the United Kingdom, he appears also to reserve the right to object to a US voice replying on the subject when he introduces it in theirs.

The fundamental that Mr Kinnock seems to have overlooked is that US bases in the United Kingdom are part of the overall US commitment to Europe and not to Britain in isolation from the Alliance. Removal of US bases or removal of their deterrents will affect NATO's

European structure and its ability to defend itself in times of threat. General Rogers understands that, as do most of us. Had Mr Kinnock's briefing been more astutely applied, so would be. Yours faithfully,
E. B. LE CHENE, Director,
West European Defence Association,
Blandford House,
65 Blandford Street, W1.

From Wing Commander C. Crich-ton, RAF (ret)
Sir, Mr Kinnock, who is under intense actual domestic pressure, has missed an essential point. Deterrence by nuclear weapons is designed not only to prevent nuclear war but also to inhibit or stop large-scale conventional war, itself an appalling tragedy.

When I was taking an active part in the NATO standby arrangements more than 20 years ago, amongst ourselves we called the deterrent the "politician's minds" with that unflinching solvent, fear.

Mr Kinnock has done a lot of homework but continues to talk about immense increases in conventional arms way beyond the fairly hefty "trip-wire" arrangements we now have.

Nuclear weapons in the last 40 years have severely limited conventional war compared with the first half of the twentieth century, quite apart from totally preventing effective nuclear blackmail by either side.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CRICHTON,
Longhorns, Blandford, Dorset.

Salt-2 breakdown

From Dr Patricia M. Lewis
Sir, Your leader (December 1) is absolutely correct that it is now time for a treaty better than Salt-2, but it will be difficult to negotiate in an atmosphere clouded by accusations of cheating and blatant break-out.

The Salt-2 treaty has indeed been beset by difficulties from its onset and the USA never ratified it. Accusations by the United States that the Soviet Union has violated the treaty are difficult to substantiate. Certainly no one is suggesting that the USSR has been violating the treaty to a level of gaining a significant strategic advantage.

Four of the allegations of violation rely on satellite photo-reconnaissance information which is not available for us to assess. For example, how can we, in Britain, judge whether the SS-25 is really a new missile, prohibited by the

treaty, or whether it is an allowed modified version of the SS-13? Also central to the allegations is the technology of missile test encryption. The wording in the treaty is ambiguous, to say the least, especially where items refer back to clauses in the Salt-1 treaty. Independent researchers cannot assess the encryption results, nor do we know which parts of the flight-test information the Soviet Union might be encrypting.

In the end, and it is the end of Salt-2, no treaty is enforceable and all are "merely understandings". Can it really be in the interests of global security to simply abandon Salt-2? Surely the true statesman-like action would have been to tighten the terms of the treaty and enhance verification measures.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA M. LEWIS,
Verification Technology Information Centre,
33 Southampton Street, WC2,
December 1.

A place in space

From Air Vice-Marshal G. C. Cairns, RAF (ret)
Sir, One of the drawbacks to pursuing the European option for Britain's future relationships in space activities, advocated by Admiral Sir James Eberle (feature, November 13), is the lack of suitable real estate.

To become a major force in space it is first necessary to have a secure launching site. Of necessity this must have a range facing east, to utilize the throw weight provided by the earth's rotation, and an arc of 90 degrees, either to north or south, to allow maximum choice of orbital inclination (complete orbital flexibility can only be obtained from a site on the equator).

Ideally the site should be within one's own territory for security reasons and to reduce logistic problems. Above all, there must be a large area of open sea or very sparsely populated territory down range over the full firing arc.

One look at the map will show that there is nowhere in western Europe which meets any of the above criteria. In contrast, both China and Japan are relatively well endowed.

The European launching site in French Guyana is very well situated, apart from long-term security and logistic considerations, and in the much longer term a vehicle such as Ariane might resolve the problem by flying as a conventional aircraft near the equator, where it would refuel before launching itself into orbit.

As far as the super-powers are concerned, the US is well placed at Cape Canaveral and has an alternative site in Florida for polar orbits. Russia's choice of orbit inclination is more restricted than the USA's, due to the higher latitude of her present launching facilities.

This produces an important factor in *realpolitik*, since any object launched by Russia directly into a low earth orbit will inevitably pass over the USA shortly after launch and at frequent intervals thereafter, whereas the US can, if they so wish, orbit their

own hardware without "overflying" Soviet territory.

With anti-satellite systems in prospect, Russia might one day wish to redress this imbalance. It is certainly a situation which highlights how essential it is that the international agreements for access to space should hold even in the face of the fierce international competition which already exists and which can only grow.

Until the world is a safer place to live in, Britain, with or without Europe, would do better to keep further options open rather than rely on the long-term security of French Guyana or the technological success of Hanoi.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CAIRNS,
Pewells, Kent,
Exeter, Devon.

In private hands

From Professor Conrad Russell
Sir, In your yesterday's edition (November 29) you report that the new policy on wheel clamping represents a measure of privatization of law enforcement.

A historian is perhaps entitled to point out that this has happened before, under the name of patents of monopoly, in the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, and that the result was the revival of impeachment. Between the ideal of justice and the profit motive, the potential for conflict of interest is considerable.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD RUSSELL,
43 Streteley Road, NW6.

Bitter-sweet memory

From the High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Sir, May I, through your columns, assure your readers that Miss Entracast is being unnecessarily sparing with her Angostura bitters (December 3). In the Caribbean, Angostura is used liberally as both a food and drink ingredient. A bottle will rarely last more than a month.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL A. INCE,
High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
42 Belgrave Square, SW1.

ments of this nature. Unfortunately, the frequency of his utterances of such unchecked and trumped-up charges have been intensified of late.

Ethiopia, in line with its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, has never given sanctuary or any form of assistance to any terrorist organisations operating in the Sudan. It is, indeed, the Sudanese Government that has been working, for years, against the unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia, by harbouring and openly encouraging the secessionist elements in northern Ethiopia bordering the Sudan.

The world is well aware of Ethiopia's ceaseless efforts and co-operation with the Sudanese Government in finding a solution to the problem of the Sudan by

Court cases to spare the child

From the Director of Social Services and Housing Services,
London Borough of Bexley
Sir, I read with interest the article by Glanville Williams (November 25) in which he advocates that the law should be changed in order to admit video recordings during the trial of individuals accused of child sexual abuse.

A special pilot project that we, together with Scotland Yard, have been conducting in Bexley, supports Mr Williams's view. Senior officers of Scotland Yard, the social services committee of this council and I all agreed that it was not in the interests of the child, nor indeed of justice being seen to be done, that victims of child sexual abuse should be subjected to fairly intensive interrogation by investigating police officers, followed by more questioning from "the caring agencies" and finally, months later, by examination and cross-examination in what, even to an adult, is the forbidding environment of an English court of law.

Therefore, we have devised a project where specially trained social workers and police officers conduct investigative interviews immediately after the offence is reported. The interviews are conducted in a special room in the paediatric department of the local district general hospital. The room itself is furnished in a comfortable, homely way.

Medical expertise is on hand, should a physical examination be necessary. Anatomically correct dolls are used so that the child can explain the events in his/her own way — adult language is not necessarily useful or possible in situations such as this.

Interviews are conducted and recorded on video whilst the incident is still relatively fresh in the child's mind. I have little doubt that Glanville Williams is right when he asserts that victims of such traumatic events should not be required to live through their traumas all over again when the case comes to trial many months after the event.

Douglas Hurd has not, in my view, gone far enough. He should be prepared, in the interests of the welfare of child victims, to face down the lawyers' lobby.

Yours faithfully,
MANI SRIVALLAN,
Director of Social Services and Housing Services,
London Borough of Bexley,
Bexley Civic Offices,
Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent.

Ending apartheid

From Mr J. L. Insley
Sir, As a South African visiting this country I find it impossible to contain my impatience with the opinions expressed in the letter (November 27) from the Executive Secretary of Christian Concern for Southern Africa.

I am a member of the Progressive Federal Party and thus a committed opponent of the Nationalist Government and its policies. My reason for this opposition is neither Christian nor idealistic but merely based on the practical view that a people denied a say in their own political future will sooner or later rebel. Thus far I can agree with Mr Kendall.

For the peaceful development of South Africa, Mr Kendall's "honest negotiations between leaders of all communities" are most certainly required, and preferably also the abolition of the notion of different communities, though this will obviously take time. Where I take issue with Mr. Kendall is over his call for "encouragement from outside", apparently in the form of economic and financial pressure.

Does Christian Concern for Southern Africa not understand that such pressure promotes the violent disorder they envisage? Deflects attention from reform and channels activity rather into sanctions busting and defiance; that I, and many like me, will in these circumstances be forced to support my Government, just as those with an eye to gaining power by revolution will be encouraged, thus polarising the country for civil war?

The future of South Africa is a matter for South Africans. The cessation of interference and the return of normal commercial diplomatic relations would help us more sensibly to develop that future. The irresponsible encouragement by so-called specialist institutions of steps calculated to increase violence, secure in the knowledge that it will not be theirs to endure, is an act of cynicism we can do without.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. INSLEY,
22 Bracewell Road, W10.

providing a venue for the conflict parties. Ethiopia's policy of good neighbourly relations needs no revision as the Prime Minister has suggested. For years its policy has been based, and will remain to be based in the future, on the inviolability of the unity and territorial integrity of States.

On the contrary, it is the Sudanese policy which needs revision on that score. Trying to find a scapegoat for the Sudanese internal problem does not help. Approaching the problem, however, with resolve and commitment in finding a solution would help.

Yours faithfully,
TEFERRA HAILE-SELASSIE,
Ethiopian Embassy,
17 Princes Gate, SW7,
December 7.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 10 1914

On November 1 the German East Asiatic Squadron, under Admiral Graf von Spee, had defeated Admiral Cradock's outdated cruisers; he and 1,650 men lost their lives. A strong British force which included the battle cruiser *Invincible* and *Inflexible* was assembled which caught up with the German ships on December 8 and sank them. Like Cradock, von Spee went down with his ship.

BRITISH VICTORY OFF THE FALKLANDS.

A DRAMATIC RETRIBUTION.
(From Our Naval Correspondent.)

The announcement that a British squadron under the command of Sir Frederick Sturdee has met and defeated the squadron commanded by Admiral Graf von Spee, and that the latter's flagship with two other German cruisers has been sunk, is doubly satisfactory. This victory avenges the loss of Admiral Cradock and his gallant comrades and at the same time removes from the high seas the most important of the war-vessels that Germany has had at large. It is a dramatic act of retribution, and indicates that when the correct strategic course is followed the stroke falls hard and sure.

Until we know more than has been told at present, it is necessary to postpone fuller comment, but the country, while giving full credit to the capacity of the Admiral and to the splendid qualities which we are sure our seamen displayed, will also recognise that credit must be due to those at home for the masterly arrangements which made the victory possible and assured its completeness.

THE BATTLE OFF CORONEL.

It is just five weeks ago that Sir Christopher Cradock, with the *Good Hope*, *Monmouth*, and *Glasgow*, met the German squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee off the coast of Chile. Whether the British Admiral knew that he was likely to meet a more powerful force in those waters is not known, but with the gallantry and dash which were among his most notable characteristics he engaged the enemy, with lamentable results. Opposed to an overwhelming preponderance of gunfire, both the *Good Hope* and the *Monmouth* were quickly in a blaze and, fighting with undaunted courage to the last, the two vessels sank with all on board. The *Glasgow* alone of the three British ships escaped.

At the range at which the action took place the lighter armament on either side must have been all but useless, while in addition the weather conditions were against the full employment of the lower batteries of the British cruisers. On the other hand, the marksmanship of the German gunners was of the best, and from the small loss on their side they could have scarcely felt the effect of the British fire at all.

In the battle which is now reported to have taken place off the Falkland Islands, it is on the British side that the casualties are few in number, and it may be assumed, therefore, that the conditions were more or less reversed and that bigger ships and better shooting told as they always should. The bright features of the disastrous action of November 1 were the gallantry of the British Admiral and the courage and endurance of the British seamen. So also we may be sure that Admiral von Spee and the crews of his ships most gallantly contested the engagement, performed their duty to the end, and died with honour.

THE GERMAN VESSELS.

Of the three German ships which have now been sunk the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* are cruisers of 11,400 tons displacement, and before the war began had formed part of the squadron on the China station. They are sister ships, identical in every respect, being well protected by armour and having a powerful armament. This comprised eight 8.2-inch, six 5.9-inch, and fourteen 24-pounder guns, with four submerged torpedo-tubes. The heaviest gun threw a projectile weighing 27½ lb, while the 5.9-inch guns fired projectiles weighing nearly 100 lb. Designed originally for 22.5 knots, both ships had exceeded this speed, but probably from the long time they have been out of their dock they were not so fast in their later days.

Badgering badgers

From Mr R. W. Rogers
Sir, For years we have had a flourishing colony of badgers in the boundary hedge of an arable field, where we welcome their presence. But when their excavations extend 20 or 30 yards into the crop we fill them in; the damage to a combine harvester if a wheel drops into one of their gigantic holes can run into hundreds of pounds.

The number of badgers shows no sign of decreasing, but judging by the size of the set has increased steadily over the last few years.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. ROGERS,
Court Lodge, Horton Kirby,
Dartford, Kent.

Mother's pride

From Mrs R. P. Stiles
Sir, Whenever I have been asked for my occupation (letter, December 1) I have found that the title "household executive" has adequately described my occupation and life style.

Yours faithfully,
PAT STILES,
39 Longlands, Charmanadean,
Worthing, West Sussex,
December 2.

ere predicts
short-term
e for Africa

Asian warning on
in rights curbs

have a...
operational...
and...
showers

JP 7.4%

JP 7.4%

JP 7.4%

JP 7.4%



Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1284.4 (+8.9)
FT-SE 100
1635.9 (+12.5)
Bargains
35432 (33250)
USM (Datastream)
129.32 (+0.39)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4215 (+0.0050)
W German mark
2.8700 (+0.0228)
Trade-weighted
68.3 (+0.3)

Imperial
Tobacco
cuts jobs

The Imperial Tobacco Company is to cut about 350 jobs at its head office in Bristol.

The company will consolidate administration, production and distribution in a single building. Including cuts announced last year, 550 non-manufacturing jobs will go over the next 12 months.

The company said yesterday that it expected all job losses to be absorbed by normal or early retirement or voluntary redundancy. It said also that its cigarette sales were under continuing pressure from high tobacco taxes and the growth of cheap own-label imports.

Gas shares
active again

Trading in British Gas shares was extremely active yesterday, but it did not match the record-breaking volumes of Monday's debut. A total of 301 million shares changed hands by 5.30 pm, compared with 821 million on Monday. Dealings towards the close were struck at 61½p, 1p down on Monday's close.

Norcross

Norcross, the building materials and packaging group, reported pretax profit up 8.5 per cent to £20.1 million in the half year to September 30. Turnover rose 2 per cent to £312 million and the interim dividend was increased by 7 per cent to 3p net.

Magnet buys

Magnet and Southern, the manufacturer and retailer of timber products, has bought more than a million shares, or approximately 1 per cent of the equity, in its fellow timber and builders' merchant group, Meyer International, which announced increased pretax profits, in the first half - from £13.2 million to 20.2 million.

Granada leaps

Granada Group, the television to bingo and motorway services combine, is looking for further acquisitions after pretax profits leapt 41 per cent from £64.4 million to £92.4 million in the year to September 27.

Strong pact

Strong and Fisher, the leather manufacturer, has undertaken not to increase its stake in Garnar Booth above 17 per cent during the course of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into its bid.

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Co News 28.23 Unit Trusts 24
Consolidated 21 Commodities 24
Stock Market 21 USM Prices 24
Money Mkts 23 Share Prices 25
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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1932.09 (+1.83)
Dow Jones	18602.74 (-107.96)
Nikkei Dow	2440.35 (+9.09)
Hong Kong	285.8 (-0.1)
Hang Seng	1440.3 (+12.6)
Amsterdam	2063.6 (+4.6)
Frankfurt	4131.69 (+16.39)
General	407.9 (+4.9)
Paris: CAC	563.80 (same)
Zurich: SSKA	61.53 (+0.79)
London: FT A	1284.4 (+8.9)
FT. Gilt	1635.9 (+12.5)

Closing prices Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	11%
3-month interbank	11 1/8%
3-month eligible bills	10 3/4% - 11%

US: Prime Rate 7 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.47-5.49%
30-year bonds 102 1/2-102 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.4215	£ DM2.0190
£ DM2.8700	£ Sfr1.6905
£ FF6.023	£ FF6.6165
£ Yen251.20	£ Yen162.57
£ Index: 68.3	£ Index: 111.2
ECU 80.72/74	ECU 80.84/8620

Bank sees 'signs of distress'
Warning on
credit cards

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England gave a warning to banks and other lending institutions yesterday that the rapid growth in lending to personal customers, particularly through credit cards, could prove dangerous to the individuals and the institutions concerned.

Mr Brian Quinn, head of banking supervision, said: "There are certain signs of growing distress among borrowers who have over-stretched themselves, attracted by greater availability of credit and easier terms."

The rapid growth, in particular, in the use of credit and charge cards is adding another substantial and partly invisible layer of commitments to the individual borrower.

Banks, he said, should consider slowing their personal lending before the volume of arrears became a matter of concern.

In a speech to the twelfth World Banking Conference in London, Mr Quinn commended the innovative policies of the banks but said that they may find themselves moving at too fast a pace. "The danger signals were beginning to emerge already despite more sophisticated lending policies and a relatively low level of defaults on loans."

This comes after warnings

given by the Governor of Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, that personal lending on mortgages could lead to hardship among borrowers who could not afford the repayments.

Mr Quinn also cautioned banks against lending too much to individual commercial customers under the pressure of greater competition.

Some banks were revising upward their internal limits on the acceptable maximum facility they could offer to corporate customers.

But the threshold at which the Bank takes an active interest in a large exposure - 10 per cent of a bank's capital - would remain strongly in force.

If banks wanted to be told the precise number of large exposures they would be



Brian Quinn: danger to individuals

allowed without having to increase their capital, they were likely to receive an "ultra-cautious" answer. Any bank wanting inflexible supervisory rules would cause the Bank to question the quality and style of its management.

Mr Quinn said that he was troubled by a shift towards the insistence by some banks on the letter rather than the spirit of supervisory rules.

The Bank has traditionally regulated the City by the spirit of the rules but it may be losing ground to a different philosophy of market behaviour.

Banking supervisors in different countries were moving to harmonize their regulatory systems in many areas, particularly in securities business which was becoming an increasingly important part of most banks' operations.

Mr Quinn said that the loosening of close relationships between banks and their clients could damage the prudential framework of banking business. Greater securitisation, when debt could be sold easily to another lender, led to "a more impersonal way of doing things."

"If nothing else, such a trend would seem to run not to be helpful in maintaining high ethical standards."

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Cambrian
'ignorant
of dealings'

By Lawrence Lever

The directors of Cambrian and General Securities, the investment trust formerly chaired and managed by Mr Ivan Boesky, did not know which shares its Bermuda subsidiary was dealing in, a director, Mr Edward Davies, said yesterday.

He explained that the tax reasons almost all the arbitrage activities of Cambrian were carried out through Farnsworth and Hastings, a subsidiary incorporated in Bermuda.

This is a wholly-owned subsidiary with a separate board. The Cambrian directors never demanded to see details of its transactions, Mr Davies said. "As outside directors of Cambrian we were never given or, indeed, wanted to see the dealing sheets for the shares which Farnsworth was buying or selling."

The Cambrian directors did, however, receive full details of those share transactions carried out by Cambrian itself. These were reviewed at quarterly board meetings.

Among shares shown on the Cambrian dealing sheets is a large block of Distillers shares. "I am aware that we were in Distillers," Mr Davies said. "I can't say when they were bought or sold. But I have never seen any Guinness shares in Cambrian's reported transactions."

The Cambrian dealing sheets also show that the company bought a substantial number of shares in Imperial Group, which was taken over by Hanson Trust this year after a highly contested battle with United Biscuits.

"We did buy a lot of Imperial shares and accepted the Hanson bid. We bought them quite late in the day."

Holmes à Court's
bid talk lifts BHP

By Richard Lander

Just when it seemed that peace had broken out at Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), Australia's largest company, along comes Mr Robert Holmes à Court to stir the pot once again.

Although the two parties ended three years of acrimony by signing a well-publicised pact in September, the Perth-based entrepreneur yesterday rekindled rumours that he might make another takeover bid for the oil, minerals and steel giant by entering into an agreement to underwrite the sale of a 5 per cent BHP stake held by Equitcorp Tasmania.

At present, Mr Holmes à Court owns 28.5 per cent of BHP, built up through a series of takeover bids by his Bell Resources group. Two months ago, in return for a seat on the board, he agreed not to increase his holding without making a takeover bid unless a

third party made an offer or acquired a stake in excess of 20 per cent. Mr John Elliott, chairman of Elders-IXL, agreed to the same ground rules in connection with his 20 per cent stake.

Yesterday's agreement could, of course, increase his stake substantially, if the Equitcorp placing flopped. But BHP is trying to keep cool.

A board statement yesterday said Mr Holmes à Court's role in the underwriting would not contravene the rules laid down by Australia's National Companies and Securities Commission or the letter and spirit of the September agreement.

Mr Holmes à Court is keeping the analysts guessing about his intentions, although yesterday's move was enough to boost BHP shares by 20 cents to Aus\$8.80 in Sydney.

City attention is focusing on Siebe's recent acquisition of Robertshaw Controls, which was bought for \$466 million (£327 million) in September.

This was financed partly by a five for six rights issue, the second in two years. Analysts had been nervous about the exit p/e of almost 20, and this had helped to push the price down from nearly 97p earlier this year to 80p.

However, Mr Stephens is excited about the potential.

Siebe boosts turnover by £100m

By Alexandra Jackson

Siebe, the engineering group, yesterday reported an 82 per cent increase in pretax profits to £20.1 million for the six months to September.

Turnover rose from £136 million to £236 million and an interim dividend of 4.69p was declared.

These figures include profits of £8.5 million from the newly acquired businesses, CompAir and Deutsche Tecalemit. The comparable contribution for

last year was £1 million - CompAir was included for two months, while Deutsche Tecalemit was, at that time, not part of the group.

Siebe's core businesses grew by 15 per cent in the first half. Mr Barrie Stephens, group managing director, said: "We have had a solid start to the year."

The share price closed at 80 3/4p yesterday, up from 78 1/2p, reflecting analysts' satisfaction with the results.

Airports set out to woo the institutions

Cleared for takeoff

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BAA plc, formerly the British Airports Authority, embarks on an advertising campaign this week in an effort to win potential investors in the run up to privatization next summer.

The company will not, however, be aiming its publicity at Sid. The new BAA logo to be revealed this week and the attendant background material are designed to impress on financial institutions and the like its forward looking - and its record as the owner of seven airports.

Its chairman, Sir Norman Payne, is to announce improved half-year profits next week.

BAA is undergoing privatization as part of next year's planned sale of the nation's air industry assets which begins with British Airways in January and is followed by Rolls-Royce in April.

Despite the possibility of a general election next year, Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Transport, confirmed in the Commons last week that the BAA sale would go ahead in the summer.

The privatization of the big

three could bring in almost £3,000 million for the Treasury - £1,000 million each for BA and R-R and comfortably more than £500 million for BAA.

The Government has announced already that it will retain a golden share in BAA and is limiting any single shareholding to 15 per cent to prevent any airline gaining control. The company's 7,238 employees are expected to be offered a share deal.

The seven airports -



Clayton Yeutter: "Congress is boiling over with frustration"

US 'may retaliate'
in trade dispute

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative, gave a warning in London yesterday that the US was running out of patience in the bitter trade disputes with Europe.

He told the Confederation of British Industry in London: "President Reagan cannot hold back protectionism if there is a perception that other nations are closing their markets to US exports. And that perception is becoming so widespread in the US that Congress is boiling over with frustration."

"Retaliation is not our objective - expanded trade is. Retaliation is the step of last resort in responding to unfair trade practices but it is a step we will take if we must."

At this week's meeting of US and European Economic Community ministers in Brussels, Mr Yeutter will say that US resentment may be uncontrollable unless rapid agreement is reached, particularly on the issues of Spain's and Portugal's accession to the EEC and continuing government funding of Airbus.

The US claims to have lost \$500 million in exports of

sorghum and maize to Spain and fears that \$600 million of oilseed sales to Spain and Portugal could also be hit.

Mr Yeutter said: "The EEC cannot use its enlargement as an opportunity to gain a trade advantage. An interim solution to the dispute expires in three weeks. If a permanent solution were not reached by the end of the month, the US would have 'no alternative but to protect its trade rights' and had a right under the Gatt to be compensated for the several hundred million dollars in trade damage."

He said protectionist sentiment was strong in the US, particularly where job losses and bankruptcies were blamed on imports, especially subsidized or dumped imports.

The US was very concerned about the level of government subsidy contemplated for the proposed A330 and A340 Airbus and would ask for political-level talks in Europe in January.

British Aerospace, the wing maker for the Airbus consortium, is seeking up to £750 million of state launch aid to cover its share of the work.

Loss-making
Tricentral to
target N Sea

By Carol Ferguson

Tricentral, the debt-laden British independent oil company, yesterday announced losses for the third quarter of this year.

A pretax loss of £5.6 million brings the total loss for the first nine months to £7.8 million.

An extraordinary write-off of £58.7 million in respect of its reorganized American assets was taken below the line.

The majority interest in these assets is in the course of being sold, leaving Tricentral with a 29 per cent interest.

The sale will raise £60.3 million to be applied in reducing Tricentral's debt. On completion of the deal, Tricentral will have a net debt of £119.7 million, 1.35 times its shareholders' funds of £88.2 million.

Tricentral's main producing oilfield, Thistle, is in decline and output for the nine months was 10 per cent lower than the same period last year.

The company's average selling price for its oil per barrel was £9.71, less than half last year's selling price of £20.65.

After tax, exploration and the interim dividend payment, there was a net cash

outflow in the first nine months of this year of £2.6 million.

If there were no further oil or gas field developments, Tricentral expects to be cash neutral next year.

However, the start of construction at the onshore Wytch Farm oilfield, in Dorset, which is expected next year, will mean that debt levels will increase again.

Consequently, interest payments will also increase, raising doubts over Tricentral's ability to continue to finance its future developments in the absence of a rise in the oil price.

The company has other possible fields awaiting development, including the Don oilfield and the Amethyst and Ravenspurn gas fields.

In a statement with the results, the company said that after the disposal of the majority of its interests in North America, it will be concentrating its activities both onshore and offshore Britain.

The board intends to keep Tricentral as a leading British independent exploration and production company.

Opec pushing for
\$18 a barrel

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Oil ministers of the 13 Opec nations start preliminary discussions in Geneva today in an effort to find a formula that will send the world oil price back up to \$18 a barrel.

Opec committees on pricing and quotas will consider reports from their export advisers before moving into a full ministerial session tomorrow.

There is agreement that the meeting must produce a workable formula to convince oil-consuming nations that the cartel is serious in its aim to return to a fixed price system from January 1.

Sheikh Hisham Nazer, the new Saudi oil minister, was among ministers who arrived in Geneva yesterday. He refused to be drawn on the issue of whether Saudi Arabia will cut its daily output to bolster the price.

He said: "We shall see very soon."

The members have endorsed the Saudi call for a return to a fixed price system, but have yet to agree on how it should be implemented.

There is a realization that output will have to be cut by up to 1 million barrels a day from the present level of 17 million. But, some countries

have said they are not in a position to make cuts.

World oil prices are languishing below the \$15-a-barrel level, but a commitment by Opec to trim production and to return to a fixed price system would have an immediate firming effect.

A stronger price would send share prices of most British oil companies upwards and allow them to resurrect marginal development projects.

Such a move would be a big boost for the Department of Energy. It has been attempting to persuade many oil companies to keep together teams of engineers and specialists.

Redundancies have been made in most companies operating in the North Sea and some fields, which started production recently, are not profitable at a price of less than \$18 a barrel.

Bid withdrawn

American Brands withdrew its \$2.8 billion (£2 billion) contested bid for Chesebrough-Pond's, the Vaseline and Pond's cold cream group.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate, made a \$3.1 billion agreed cash offer for Pond's last week.

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SAVE £2480.40 on a loan of £8000	129.06	115.28	13.78
SAVE £3101.40 on a loan of £10,000	161.33	144.10	17.23
SAVE £4645.80 on a loan of £15,000	241.99	216.18	25.81

By multiplying the monthly saving by the number of months of the loan the total saving over the period can be seen. If the loan is repaid before time, the total cost will be substantially less. Typical examples: £3000 x 36 mths plan 7 = £110,70p.m., total cost £3985.20 APR 18.8% (deferred repayment plan), £5000 x 60 mths plan 22 = £120,50p.m., total cost £7230 APR 16.7%.

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(STOCK MARKET)

£6 billion takeover bid for Grand Met is on way at last

By Carol Leonard

The long-awaited £6 billion bid for Grand Metropolitan, the drinks, hotels and foods empire, could materialize within the next week.

There has been consistent buying of the stock by informed sources during the past few days.

One market man said yesterday: "This time it really is coming."

Whispers of possible stake-building have begun circulating in some City circles and the bid speculation, which has plagued the company for many months, is starting to rear its head once again.

Grand Met's shares, down 9p to 447p, have slipped a few pence each day since reaching their peak of 482p on November 28. The bid premium in the price has now evaporated, making it an ideal time for a predator to pounce.

And sector-watchers say that if there really is a predator waiting in the wings, he will have to make his move before the company unveils its year-end results on Thursday of next week.

Mr Daniel Leaf, leading leisure and brewing analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the broker, who rates the shares as a strong buy regardless of bid speculation, said: "Once these figures are out of the way, the company will have turned the corner in terms of City perception."

"The presentation of the results will give the City a chance to meet the new management. They are certain to impress and the stock will be in for an immediate re-rating."

He estimates that the break-up value of Grand Metropolitan would be at least £7 a share, valuing the entire group at £6 billion, and says at its present price there is no longer any bid premium included.

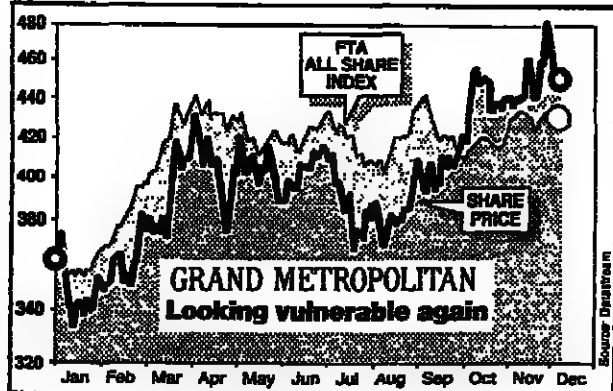
At 447p, the company is valued at less than £4 billion.

Because of the enormous sums involved in launching a bid of this size, the most likely suitor is thought to be a consortium which would sell

Expect details next week of Blue Arrow's third US acquisition this year. The employment agency and cleaning services group is paying about \$15 million (£10 million) for a franchise employment agency in New York. This will boost its US network to 170 outlets. Its shares eased 1p to 387p.

off various parts of the company to its members.

Yesterday's slide in the Grand Met price was put down to plans by the US Government to close the Delaware Link, a tax loop hole whereby British companies in the US can get double tax relief.



But analysts say the effect of this on Grand Met will be "negligible".

Elsewhere, the stock market had another quiet firm session, with leading stocks boosted by an opinion poll showing the Conservatives ahead and British Gas holding steady at 62 1/2p, despite notching up a volume figure of more than 300 million shares.

The FT-SE 100 index gained ground steadily and closed up 12.5 at 1,635.9. The FT-30 share index closed up 8.9 at 1,284.4.

Gilt closed at their highest level of the day, about 9 1/4 better in the shorts and as much as 9 1/4 better at the longer end, boosted by the stronger pound.

Among blue chips, British Telecom was one of the most heavily traded, with 14 million shares changing hands ahead of its results on

Thursday.

The share price, encouraged by the political opinion poll, firmed 4p to 200p.

Cable & Wireless gained 5p to 324p, ICI 8p to 111 1/2p, Glaxo 19p to 94 1/2p, on continued support after its annual meeting on Monday, and BTR 6p to 27 1/2p. THF slipped 5p to 18 1/2p on profit-taking and Vickers 3p to 388p.

Better than expected results boosted Goring Kerr 20p to 338p.

Britannia Arrow has cut its holding in Cannon Street Investments, the USM investment group, from 7.7 per cent to below 5 per cent. The shares, placed at about 182p, were bought by friendly institutions. Its shares firmed yesterday to 183p. Analysts forecast profits of more than £3 million.

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 8.45pm

1986	High Low	Company	Price	Bid	Offer	Chgs	Volume	1986	High Low	Company	Price	Bid	Offer	Chgs	Volume
393 288	Allied-Lyons	308 308	..	+3	14.5	4.7	14.0	281	348 276	Land Securities	344 347	..	+3	14.5	4.2
174 126	ASDA-MFI	145 145	..	..	4.3	3.0	18.4	1,530	283 133	Logal & Gen	284 246	..	..	12.3	5.0
458 284	BTR	275 275	..	..	4.8	19.2	4.0	4,020	484 289	Lloyds	438 446	..	..	25.0	7.1
481 381	BAT	484 486	..	+6	18.4	3.9	12.2	1,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
572 440	Barclays	484 486	..	+15	28.1	6.7	7.1	1,500	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
840 880	B&S	750 750	..	..	34.3	3.4	12.9	354	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
430 356	Bechtel	420 420	..	..	17.1	4.0	17.8	1,800	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
726 586	Blue Circle	645 650	..	..	20.0	4.6	6.2	230	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
320 286	BOC	280 285	..	..	18.4	4.4	18.7	989	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
280 170	Boots	230 235	..	..	10.6	4.8	15.1	4,900	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
450 425	Br Aerospace	440 445	..	..	20.4	4.8	10.5	1,500	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
54 1/2	Br Gas	61 1/2	..	..	..	..	..	..	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
708 530	Br Telecom	680 685	..	..	48.6	7.1	7.5	2,200	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
280 177	Br Telecom	180 202	..	..	10.7	5.4	11.7	14,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
180 180	Br Telecom	180 180	..	..	8.5	4.0	15.1	3,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
354 258	Burton	254 255	..	..	5.1	3.0	14.9	2,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
308 277	Cable & Wireless	320 327	..	+6	7.2	2.2	17.7	2,400	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
198 156	Cadbury Schweppes	180 180	..	..	8.7	4.7	21.6	405	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
584 428	Combs Viscella	422 425	..	..	17.9	3.9	18.8	757	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
326 257	Com Union	258 260	..	..	17.1	4.5	18.2	1,400	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
704 409	Cons Goldfields	653 650	..	..	26.0	5.3	16.8	595	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
320 282	Courtauld	310 313	..	..	10.2	3.8	10.5	977	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
280 301	D&G Corp	305 310	..	..	10.3	4.9	17.1	948	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
438 318	Dicom	328 330	..	..	4.5	1.8	23.5	5,200	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
650 408	Flinton	325 330	..	..	8.4	1.8	23.5	515	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
954 701	Gan Accident	680 687	..	+12	34.3	4.1	21.0	487	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
526 188	G&S	188 170	..	..	8.3	3.7	10.6	10,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
11 1/2	G&S	945 950	..	..	20.4	2.1	18.7	4,400	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
401 325	Grand Met	445 450	..	..	18.5	3.0	15.0	1,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
11 1/2	GUS A	10 1/2	..	..	30.0	2.8	14.3	48	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
854 780	GUE	780 787	..	..	42.5	5.4	22.7	184	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
385 255	GUN	270 275	..	..	17.8	3.6	11.1	8.6	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
355 275	Guinness	284 288	..	..	10.3	3.8	10.9	2,800	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
191 141	Hanson	190 192	..	..	6.1	3.2	17.0	4,000	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
823 400	Hewlett Packard	440 446	..	..	21.6	4.8	18.8	48	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
11 1/2	Imp Chem Ind	11 1/2	..	..	48.4	4.3	12.5	91	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
180 180	Jaguar	180 180	..	..	12.7	2.4	10.9	581	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8
391 312	Ladbroke	356 361	..	..	18.8	4.7	17.1	196	288 188	Lynro	327 228	..	+19	17.1	7.8

£60m first Eurobond for Dixons

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Dixons Group, the electrical goods retailer, announced yesterday that it was raising £60 million through a convertible Eurobond, the first time the company has tapped the international capital markets.

The company said that it marked the first step towards encouraging overseas investors to take an interest in its equity.

The bonds proved an immediate success, rising to a premium as European investors moved in to snap up the issue.

The 15-year notes carry an interest rate of 6.75 per cent and are being issued in denominations of £5,000 and £50,000.

The issue will be convertible into ordinary Dixons shares at a premium of 11.8p per cent above the mid-market price of the shares yesterday. Dixons closed at 328p, giving a conversion value of 367p.

"This issue broadens our capital base and assists in financing the group's major expansion programme, which will accelerate in 1987/88," said Mr Egon von Greyerz, the vice chairman.

He added that the Euro-convertible issue was the most cost effective way

Vaux in 'hands off' warning

Another of the big regional brewers, the Sunderland-based Vaux group, yesterday announced sharply higher profits and delivered a "hands off" warning to any would-be bidders.

Mr Paul Nicholson, the chairman, said that the recent spate of stock market takeover rumours had an unsettling effect on employees.

He assured them, however, that the management was determined to concentrate on the essential object of long-term growth rather than short-term issues in order to ensure a successful future as an independent company.

The Vaux figures revealed that profits before tax rose from £14,722,000 for the year to September 27 for the year to September 27. The company registered improvements in all divisions — brewing, hotels and wines and spirits.

A final dividend of 8.23p is to be paid, making the total for the year 12.5p compared with 11.06p last time.

The figures, however, in-

clude a below the line extraordinary item of £688,000 relating to the cost of closing down a number of its breweries.

In addition to the closure of Vaux brewery in Sunderland and the Ward Brewery in Sheffield, the company stopped brewing at its Darleys plant in September and plans to discontinue brewing in Edinburgh next spring.

Vaux is based in a region with big economic problems but, Mr Nicholson said: "We are one of the few successful growth companies within that region and we firmly believe that it is in the interests of all, particularly shareholders, that we remain independent and successful."

He said also that Vaux is emphasizing its determination to remain successful and independent with investment plans of £25 million during 1987.

"The current year has started well," Mr Nicholson said.

Compco profits ahead

Compco Holdings, the property company, has reported an interim pretax profit of £360,080 to September 25, compared with £304,624 for the same period the previous year.

The company's net rental income rose to £425,766 from £354,404 while interest payable has trebled to £25,933. Earnings per share were 11.3p

compared with 8.76p.

Since announcing the interim figures, Compco has bought two office buildings close to the City of London with potential for improvement, which has resulted in borrowings rising to £2 million.

The company says interest charges in the second half will be significantly higher.

Devenish froths to £5.9m

The west country brewer JA Devenish is beginning to see the benefits of the agreed merger with fast-growing Inn Leisure, headed by Mr Michael Cannon.

In spite of poor summer weather, profits, sales and earnings per share made substantial progress.

Group profits for the year ended September 30 rose from £5.5 million before tax to £5.987 million. Basic earnings per share have increased from 8.77p to 11.14p and shareholders are promised a final dividend of 2.15p per share compared with 2.05p last time.

After the Inn Leisure acquisition, all the company's operations have been through a thorough review. Some have been closed down while others changes have produced considerable economies.

Under the new chief executive, Mr Cannon, the group has a number of new and exciting projects for the future, the company statement said.

Glasgow trust agrees to bid

Glasgow Stockholders, the investment trust, has finally recommended the bid worth £54.9 million in cash from John Mowlem. The offer was made three weeks ago and accepted by Sun Life Assurance and Sun Life Pensions speaking for 26.5 per cent of the trust. Liquidation of the trust will raise about £55 million and be used for expansion plans.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

The Old Lady gently puts her foot down

The Big Bang and the wider financial revolution has resulted in a pounding headache for the poor old banking supervisor. In a rougher, tougher world the game may be played according to the rules, but many of the most effective plays are on the blind side of the referee.

Such was the lament from Brian Quinn, the Bank of England's head of banking supervision, addressing the 12th World Banking Conference yesterday. Gone are the days, he feared, when banks could be relied on to accept the nudges and hints from the Bank of England. In its place is a new era where they will do their damndest to get around the spirit of the law even if they stick by its letter.

The modern-day banking supervisor, Mr Quinn admitted, has to juggle so many balls in the air that it is hardly surprising if one or two fall to the ground. The Bank was accused of having butterfingers in the case of Johnson Matthey Bankers and that episode will not easily be erased from its collective memory.

Three specific issues are exercising the Bank's 150-strong supervision division right now. The first is on large exposures. The Bank starts to take a supervisory interest in any exposure of more than 10 per cent of capital, and effectively sets a limit on any exposure equivalent to more than 25 per cent of capital.

The problem is that the appropriate exposure will differ according to the bank and the loan in question, and to the number of large exposures held by any one bank. The approach requires judgement and flexibility and this, it appears, is not fully appreciated by the banking community. Push us too far on

this, Mr Quinn seemed to be saying, and the result will be a rigidity which benefits nobody.

The second area, the role of the banks in the securities markets, is one on which things should become a little clearer early next year, when the Bank publishes new guidelines. The heart of the problem is the distinction between banking assets and trading assets. Developing an appropriate measure of capital adequacy to cover a bank subsidiary with a large and active trading book is far from easy.

This is only part of the effort to bring all the new-fangled banking instruments now being invented under a leakproof supervisory umbrella. Not only is it requiring a qualitative change in attitude by the regulators, but it also offers an opportunity to harmonize rules being formulated in other countries. When the results of the Bank's deliberations on these matters emerge, they are likely to bear a very strong resemblance to rules being adopted in the US.

Finally, to show that the concern of the authorities extends from the banking parlours to the high street, Mr Quinn sounded a warning on personal-sector credit. Earlier in the autumn, the Governor of the Bank expanded on the dangers of too fast a pace of mortgage lending. Now his head of banking supervision says the banks should be asking themselves whether all the credit and charge-card lending is not building a mountain of unserviceable personal sector debt.

The Bank would be the last to admit it. But things were a lot easier, from both a prudential and a monetary control point of view, when there were quantitative controls on bank lending.

The great British let-down

Although the price of British Gas shares has wilted, disappointment with the early market performance is not nearly so great as disappointment among ordinary subscribers with the number of shares they were allotted.

This sense of let-down may be laid fairly at the door of N M Rothschild. As advisers to the Government, and for reasons not difficult to understand, N M Rothschild were anxious to ensure the issue's success, initially measured by the number of times an offer is oversubscribed.

But success did not come easily. It required some strenuous marketing by N M Rothschild among institutional and "corporate" investors in the anxious days immediately before the closing date when it appeared that the public was not as wildly excited by British Gas as the ad men and public relations advisers had claimed.

The institutions, or to be precise

"certain institutional investors," had been given a preferential allotment, which in the event was scaled down to 969 million shares, at a price of 135p per share less their legitimate but still healthy commissions for underwriting the issue. The impression, wrong as it turned out, among institutions was that the offer of 1.165 million shares to "the general public" excluded them. They were rapidly disabused of this notion, came in for the general public's shares and undoubtedly ensured the over-subscription of "the UK Public Offer".

Although a cut-off would have been fairer, it was decided to allot shares on an open-ended basis.

The disappointment this has caused would diminish if the shares performed less well, though that statement has to be set aside another, namely the natural barrier — no allotment letters until next week — to ordinary investors selling shares this week when the premium was tempting.

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Mobile telephones double in a year

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Cellular telephone users in Western Europe number about 500,000, or twice the total of last year, and the market could double again over the next two years.

This was forecast yesterday by Communications and Research in a new study of the mobile communications market in Western Europe. The report describes the growth in the sector as "explosive", the most of the industry's optimistic expectations.

The study suggests an average growth of 30 per cent a year during the rest of the decade.

Within 10 years CIT expects 3.3 million cellular users, or more than five times the present total. In addition, there are more than a million users of radio pagers in Western Europe, and this sector is expected to grow by 20 per cent a year until the end of the decade. At that time the total number of users is expected to

be about 2.1 million.

There are 3.1 million private, mobile radios in use. But growth in this sector is expected to rise by only 5 per cent a year. These radios offer communication only with a base station.

The total mobile communications market in Europe is growing by more than 40 per cent a year, according to CIT. By 1990 the business is expected to be worth about \$4 billion (£2.8 billion) a year

including equipment sales of \$1.75 billion.

Increases of this order — international telephony in contrast is growing by only about 12 per cent a year — are likely, in spite of capacity and frequency limitations and, in some countries, high prices, CIT said.

Mobile Communications in Western Europe 1987: £3,450 from CIT Research, 1 Harwood Place, Hanover Square, London W1R 9HA.

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Electron buys Bytech

Contracts have been exchanged for the acquisition by Electron House of the Bytech Group, a franchised distributor of electronic components, systems and computer peripherals for £3.3 million cash.

The shares which are being issued to finance the acquisition have been placed with institutional and other investors by Chase Manhattan Securities at 120p per new ordinary share and 100p per new convertible preference share.

Electron's profitability is increasing through improved efficiency, and the acquisition of the Bytech Group is expected to enhance this trend.

● **OSBORNE & LITTLE:** Figures in 2000 for the six months to September 30. Interim dividend was 1.3p (1p). Turnover was 3,803 (2,646), profit before exceptional items was 673 (404), and pretax profit was 508 (404) and earnings per share were 4.62p (3.31p). The company expects sales and profits to be higher in the second half than in the first.

● **STRONG & FISHER HOLDINGS/GARNAR BOOTH:** The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has received undertakings from Strong & Fisher not to acquire any part of the share capital of Garnar Booth, or to enter into any agreement which would result in its having an interest of more than 10 per cent in any class of shares in Garnar during the investigation by the Mergers and Monopolies Commission.

● **GABORNE:** Expenses, in addition to start-up costs, have been incurred throughout the whole period. In the second half the company will enjoy a full six months trading on a nationwide basis.

● **TURRIFF CORPORATION:** The company has entered into a conditional agreement to acquire Whitall Holdings, a Birmingham building contractor which trades under the name of Moffat Whitall. The consideration, payable in cash on completion, is approximately £450,000 plus a further maximum of £75,000.

COMPANY NEWS

deffered until April 1988 and dependent upon profits for 1987. Mr Michael Whitall, founder and managing director of Whitall, will be appointed managing director of Turriff Construction which will include Whitall with effect from January 5.

● **BERKELEY GROUP:** Results for the six months to October 31 include an interim dividend of 0.85p (0.7p) and, with figures to 2000, turnover of 21,051 (13,237), operating profit of 3,008 (1,910), profit of related companies 120 (nil), interest of 45 (242), pretax profit of 3,083 (1,668) and tax of 1,079 (667). Earnings per share were 6.3p (4.0p). The company says sales are at a record level and the directors are confident about the future.

● **TACE:** A final dividend of 5.68p has been declared, making 8.52p (6.65p) for the year to September 30. With figures in 2000, turnover amounted to 22,048 (20,135), gross profit 8,766 (7,353), distribution costs 1,981 (1,744), administration 2,936 (2,281), operating profit 3,849 (3,328), interest payable (net) 347 (212), pretax profit 3,502 (3,116), tax 819 (1,116), outsider shareholders' share 574 (625) and extraordinary debts 496 (credit 1,882). Earnings per share were 30.07p (21.41p). The group continues

to seek further complementary acquisitions.

● **HUMBERSIDE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS:** No dividend (0.1p) for the year to May 31. With figures in 2000, turnover was 1,005 (863), profit before exceptional items 29 (145), exceptional debits 379 (nil), loss after exceptional debits 350 (profit 145). Loss per share was 1.63p (eps 0.84p). The exceptional debits are a loss on a big contract due to a commercial settlement dispute, 32, writedown of obsolete part stocks, 182, and provisions against stock machines of 165. There is no tax charge (nil). The management accounts indicate a modest profit for the six months to the end of November. The profit for the full year to May 31, 1987, is entirely dependent on an early conversion of the high positive inquiry levels into firm orders.

● **AUDITRONIC:** With figures in 2000, results for the 16 months to June 30, 1986 (year to March 1, 1985) include turnover of 3,272 (10,553), loss on ordinary activities before tax of 676 (1,253), tax nil (3) and an extraordinary credit of 465 (430 dbt). In recent months, the management's attention has been largely devoted to the programme of asset sales and other cost-cutting measures necessary to ensure stabilisation of the company's financial position. This has now been largely accomplished.

Whitcroft jumps 31%

Whitcroft, the textiles, lighting and building supplies group, yesterday launched a net £12.2 million rights issue and announced pretax profits 31 per cent higher at £3.6 million for the six months to September 30.

The company, which failed last August in its takeover bid for Eleco Holdings, said it was raising new money in readiness for future acquisitions. Borrowings over the past 18 months have increased by £17 million.

Whitcroft has a 12 per cent stake in Eleco which cost £3

million. An extraordinary dividend of £765,000 was due largely to bid costs.

The textiles and lighting divisions showed strong growth, but the building supplies registered a 27 per cent dip in profits owing to non-recurring costs of moving to a new site and developing two additional manufacturing units for PVC windows.

The interim dividend was raised to 3p from 2.5p and the company has promised that total dividends will be not less than 10p a share.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %	
Overnight	10.00
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Discount Market Loans %	
Overnight	10.00
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Trade Bills (Discount %)	
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Interbank %	
Overnight	10.00
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Local Authority Deposits %	
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Local Authority Bonds %	
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00
Government Bonds %	
1 month	10.00
3 months	10.00
6 months	10.00
12 months	10.00

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Cnts	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co.	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %	
1 month	8.50%
3 months	8.50%
6 months	8.50%
12 months	8.50%
2 months	8.50%
3 months	8.50%
6 months	8.50%
12 months	8.50%

BULLION	
Gold (100g)	380.25
Silver (100g)	24.15
Palladium (100g)	1,200.00
Platinum (100g)	1,000.00

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Ashland (120p)	145
Avis Europe (250p)	281 1/2
Bilston/Gemrose (100p)	141
Brake Bros (125p)	149
British Gas (50p)	62 1/2
Daniel S (130p)	150
Fraser & Neave (175p)	180
Gaynor (84p)	109 1/2
Geest (125p)	155 1/2
Gordon Russell (190p)	208
Guthrie Corp (150p)	170
Halls Home & Gdn (90p)	105 1/2
Harmony Leisure (220p)	27
Lloyds Chemist (105p)	132 1/2
Lond Metropolitan (145p)	166 1/2
Mace Leisure (135p)	153 1/2
Midland (165p)	175
Northumbrian Fine (50p)	88
Plum Hodge (90p)	112 1/2
Quora (115p)	125 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Cook Wm F/P	180
Glaxo N/P	26
Lon Assc Inv F/P	20
Horlock Cap F/P	24
Petrochem F/P	85
Regalain N/P	2
Throg Sec N/P	2
Wedgwood F/P	190
Walker (A/N)	

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNSECURED CREDITORS
17 SOUTHAMPTON PLACE, LONDON WC1A 2EH

Would anyone who has supplied goods or services since 4th March 1986 to and is now a creditor of:

HOUSE OF HOLLAND
Localstate Ltd T/A House of Holland
Evensure Ltd T/A House of Holland

Please contact the above Association at:
162 Lord Street, Southampton PO4 0QA
Telephone: 0704 44464 Telex: 677256 Action G. Fax: 0704 44680

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Nov 17	Nov 23	Nov 19	Mar 15
Nov 18	Nov 24	Nov 20	Mar 16
Nov 19	Nov 25	Nov 21	Mar 17

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	
Three Month Sterling	Open High Low Close
Dec 86	88.50 88.50 88.50 88.50
Jan 87	88.50 88.50 88.50 88.50
Feb 87	88.50 88.50 88.50 88.50
Mar 87	88.50 88.50 88.50 88.50

FOREIGN EXCHANGES	
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES	Market rates
Dec 86	1.4210-1.4220
Jan 87	1.4210-1.4220
Feb 87	1.4210-1.4220
Mar 87	1.4210-1.4220

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral	1.9885-1.9894
Australia dollar	2.1758-2.1761
Belgian franc	20.245-20.247
Brazil cruzeiro	20.245-20.247
Canadian dollar	0.7200-0.7201
French franc	6.5596-6.5597
German mark	1.9360-1.9361
Italian lire	1.9360-1.9361
Japanese yen	1.9360-1.9361
Netherlands guilder	1.9360-1.9361
Portuguese escudo	1.9360-1.9361
Spanish peseta	1.9360-1.9361
Swedish krona	1.9360-1.9361
Swiss franc	1.9360-1.9361
Thai baht	1.9360-1.9361
US dollar	1.9360-1.9361

DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina austral	1.9885-1.9894
Australia dollar	2.1758-2.1761
Belgian franc	20.245-20.247
Brazil cruzeiro	20.245-20.247
Canadian dollar	0.7200-0.7201
French franc	6.5596-6.5597
German mark	1.9360-1.9361
Italian lire	1.9360-1.9361
Japanese yen	1.9360-1.9361
Netherlands guilder	1.9360-1.9361
Portuguese escudo	1.9360-1.9361
Spanish peseta	1.9360-1.9361
Swedish krona	1.9360-1.9361
Swiss franc	1.9360-1.9361
Thai baht	1.9360-1.9361
US dollar	1.9360-1.9361

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put
Jan 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Feb 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Mar 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Apr 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
May 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Jun 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Jul 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Aug 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Sep 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Oct 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Nov 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220
Dec 87	1.4210-1.4220	1.4210-1.4220

WHITECROFT
31% INCREASE IN PROFIT

INTERIM RESULTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1986

	1986 £000	1985 £000	
Turnover	53,942	48,668	UP 11%
Profit Before Tax	3,591	2,740	UP 31%
Earnings Per Share	10.0p	7.1p	UP 41%
Dividends Per Share	3.0p	2.5p	UP 20%

- LIGHTING PROFITS UP 67%
- TEXTILE PROFITS 24% HIGHER

"Trading results for the first two months of the second half have been encouraging and we continue to view the outlook for the current year with confidence."

Tom Weatherby, Chairman

WHITECROFT plc
Textiles, Building Supplies, Lighting, Property Development.
A copy of the Interim Report may be obtained from: The Secretary, Whitecroft plc, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5BX.
Telephone: 0625 52457.

PUT OUR RESULTS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE AND THEY LOOK EVEN BETTER.

The performance of Nunc, manufacturers of culture specimen containers deserves closer inspection.

Especially in the area of diagnostic scanning, where their Immuno Reader system leads the field in scanning for AIDS anti-bodies.

Nunc, like many BTR companies, benefits from focused research and development.

BTR
BTR PLC, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. 01-834 3848.

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading:

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High Low Company Bid Offer Chicago Sp. % P/E										High Low Company Bid Offer Chicago Sp. % P/E										High Low Company Bid Offer Chicago Sp. % P/E										High Low Company Bid Offer Chicago Sp. % P/E										High Low Company Bid Offer Chicago Sp. % P/E									
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هكذا من الأصل

Portfolio
—Gold—

**Claims required for
+50 points**

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

General 'A'	37	28	3.4	5.5	5.6
General 'B'	37	28	3.4	5.5	5.6
General 'C'	47	47	..	7.5	5.8
General 'D'	47	47	..	7.5	5.8
General 'E'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'F'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'G'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'H'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'I'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'J'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'K'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'L'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'M'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'N'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'O'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'P'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'Q'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'R'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'S'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'T'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'U'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'V'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'W'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'X'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'Y'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'Z'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'AZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'BZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'CZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'DZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'ED'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'ER'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'ES'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'ET'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'EZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'FZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'GZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HD'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HI'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HN'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HO'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HP'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HQ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HR'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HS'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HT'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HU'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HV'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HW'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HX'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HY'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'HZ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IA'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IB'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IC'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'ID'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IE'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IF'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IG'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IH'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'II'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IJ'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IK'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IL'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IM'	110	110	..	3.5	2.2
General 'IN'	110				

RENTALS

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Newly decorated bright and spacious flat close to Clarendon Road, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA CLOISTERS SW3

Businessman's paradise in S. Kensington, exceptional 1 bed apartment, fully furnished, central heating, fully equipped kitchen, 24 hrs. porterage, maid service, cable and sat TV, world-wide communications. Co. let.

HARVEY TERRACE W11

Charming 2 bed riverside cottage in the heart of Regent's Park, surrounded by private gardens. Reception with fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bath, parking, long co. let.

CATHCART ROAD SW13

Charming studio, designed and decorated with great imagination. The perfect bachelor apartment in quiet residential street, near many good restaurants.

FLORENTINE CLOSE W11

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VICTORIA SW1

A beautiful 2 bed flat in a new development, close to the station, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

KENSINGTON W8

Newly decorated 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

Anscombe & Ringland

Residential Lettings

HEIRE HILL, W11

Large detached house, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

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Grand new house, 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

RESIDENTIAL

Letting to very high standard, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

ST MARKS PLACE W11

3rd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CADOGAN PLACE SW1

Close to the station, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA SW3

Levy furnished 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

BROMPTON W11

2nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

AMERICAN EXECUTIVE

2nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

BEAUFORT W11

2nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

2/3 & 4 BEDROOM

House and flat for letting in the NW London area, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CROFTWICK

Beautiful 2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

VENETIAN-STYLE LIVING

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

MARBLE ARCH W1

Stunning studio flat in a new development, close to the station, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

DEVONSHIRE ST, W1

Very gracious 1st floor flat with high ceilings, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

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HAMPSHIRE COURT W6

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WEST HAMPSHIRE

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA SW3

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

LAWSON & BERNARD

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

KENSINGTON W8

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

KENSINGTON SW7

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

ALL VICTORIA

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA SW3

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

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KENSINGTON SW7

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ALL VICTORIA

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CHELSEA SW3

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LAWSON & BERNARD

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INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES

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KENSINGTON W8

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KENSINGTON SW7

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

ALL VICTORIA

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA SW3

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

Plaza Estates

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

MARBLE ARCH W1

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

DEVONSHIRE ST, W1

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

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2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA SW3

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

LAWSON & BERNARD

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES

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KENSINGTON W8

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KENSINGTON SW7

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ALL VICTORIA

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CHELSEA SW3

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

LAWSON & BERNARD

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

VENETIAN-STYLE LIVING

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

MARBLE ARCH W1

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

DEVONSHIRE ST, W1

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

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HAMPSHIRE COURT W6

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WEST HAMPSHIRE

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INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVES

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KENSINGTON W8

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KENSINGTON SW7

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

ALL VICTORIA

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

CHELSEA SW3

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

LAWSON & BERNARD

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

VENETIAN-STYLE LIVING

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

MARBLE ARCH W1

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

DEVONSHIRE ST, W1

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

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BERKELEY ESTATES

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LEINSTER GARDENS W2

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

HAMPSHIRE COURT W6

2 bed flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large reception, kitchen, dining room, living room, shower room, 1 kitchen, parking, long company let.

BETHESDA & CO

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WEST HAMPSHIRE

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CHELSEA SW3

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Box No. C01.

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ANGELA MORTIMER

Continued on next page

MOTOR RACING

Race is on for the smoothest ride

By John Blunsden

A new phrase is likely to be added to the vocabulary of grand prix racing next season, it is "active suspension", and it refers to a sophisticated system of suspension control in which messages are sent from each corner of the car to a central computer, which then makes the appropriate suspension adjustments for optimum handling and ride performance.

It was first seen, briefly, in 1983, when JPS Team Lotus experimented with an "active" car in Brazil, but the system clearly needed a lot of development and little has been heard about it since. However, the Lotus research and development department have been continuing their investigations, and the system is expected to feature on the next Corvette sports car.

There are strong rumours that the Lotus-Honda formula one car, which Gerard Ducrocq is designing for 1987, will also be actively suspended, but meanwhile, Williams Grand Prix Engineering have announced that they, too, have a car equipped with computer-controlled, active-ride suspension which began four days of tests at Estoril, Portugal, yesterday.

"We have been developing active-ride for several years, originally in conjunction with Automotive Products of Leamington," explained the Williams design director, Peter Head. "Now we have taken over the development from AP, and we believe it has far-reaching possibilities."

Williams will run their experimental car alongside two standard specification FW18s in Portugal, and, if the results from the new suspension system are sufficiently positive, the team will consider racing with what they are already referring to as their "active ride" development during the coming season.

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Bringing out the best in West

Unsung Briton Jeremy West became the first Western canoeist to win two titles at the world championships this year. Chief Sports Correspondent David Miller met him in exile in Basle, Switzerland.

Is it possible for an impecunious Briton to penetrate the professional arena of a minority sport dominated by state-sponsored Eastern Europeans, would the public know if he did, and should they and our Government care more than they evidently do? The answers are yes, no and maybe.

The questions are provoked by Jeremy West, from Surrey, a remarkable double world champion in canoeing, presently living anonymously in Basle, who has a thorax, shoulders and biceps to compare with Tyson the Terrible, and is an obvious candidate for a gold medal at the next Olympic Games.

He excels over the prosaic, flat stuff

Let us consider the last answer first. Competitive canoeists in Britain are numbered in four figures, rather than six or seven, but they are energetic enough in their persuasions for Princess Anne to have opened, this autumn, an artificial white-water course at the national water-sports centre in Nottingham in the company of satisfied officials from the Nottinghamshire and Sports Councils.

White-water racing is, of course, more eccentric than the prosaic flat stuff, in which the canoeist must generate his own momentum, and at which West excels. It is commendable that the taxpayer should provide community facilities that offer an alternative to the sort of entertainment for which too many are at present undergoing healthy spells of retraining at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

Yet, is public or private sponsorship justifiable to help West beat the Communists at an activity that, as



Worldly goods: Jeremy West and the world championship medals that changed his mind about entering the Seoul Olympics

they perceive it, is an ideology as much as a sporting achievement.

In moderation, I think, public support is in the public interest. No sociological analyst can tell us precisely the parameters by which we estimate our national status, yet sport is certainly part of the equation. A world champion canoeist must be worth more to our self-esteem than any bucolic darts-tosser.

It is, however, wrong of the publicist for canoeing's Olympic racing squad to claim poverty on West's behalf, in comparison with, say, our leading track athletes. Over, Coe, Cram and Black became financially prominent only after achieving international success.

The drive of the international sports competitor should always, in the first place, be self-initiated by private, not public, will-power. There is also the factor of spectator - and, therefore, commercial - interest, which is unfortunate for West.

Having said that, it is to be hoped that he will now be given an elite grant of £5,000 by the Sports Aid Foundation, which hitherto has funded him with some £800 per annum. Such were the financial strains that, until he won the K1 (singles) 500 metres and 1,000 metres in this year's world championships in Montreal, he had intended, at 25, to retire prematurely.

Not only was his double gold an achievement accomplished only twice before - and never by a Western competitor - but his time of 3min 37.60sec was an unofficial world record.

The Olympic champion, Alan Thompson, of New Zealand, returned his same Los Angeles time, yet was only seventh, and West also defeated, for the first time in three meetings this year, the previous 1,000m world champion, Ferenc Csipes, of Hungary.

"The only way to beat the Eastern Europeans," he says, "is simple - do as much work as they do." Jeremy followed in the footsteps of Jonathan, eight years his elder brother among four. At 13, he joined Leander Sea Scouts at Kingston-on-Thames and, soon afterwards, he crossed the river to the adjacent Royal Canoe Club.

In 1979, at 18, he won the junior world championships silver medal - Britain's first-ever medal - but, immediately before the Moscow Olympics, he contracted hepatitis and was out of action for a year.

It took him two or three years to recover fully, and he meanwhile worked at his mathematics degree at the West London Institute. In 1984, he took a sabbatical and, in Los Angeles, came fifth in the K4 "fours", only half a second behind the bronze medalists, and eighth in the K2 (pairs) with Andrew Sherriff.

Medals changed his mind about retirement

Last year, he completed his degree and then borrowed £2,000 from his father, to attend a winter's "summer" training in New Zealand with Ian Ferguson, a former Olympic champion. Ferguson provided new ideas and motivation, and Montreal the reward. West changed his mind about retirement.

What is a British canoeist doing in Basle? The answer is that his fiancée, whom he is marrying in a fortnight's time, is Irene Schaffner, the former European freestyle ski-jumping bronze medalist and now fitness coach of the Swiss canoe team.

West plans to spend this winter, with SAF assistance, strengthening his already-formidable physique with cross-country skiing and training at centres in Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Even if he does not win a gold medal in Seoul, his offspring must surely win a medal at something.

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SPORT

GOLF

The decline of the master and the birth of his shrine

Sports writers of The Times present their selection from the sporting books of the year. Today: Mitchell Plants on the best of the golf books.

The paradox of Augusta National Golf Club is that the moment it began life as a shrine to its maker, Bobby Jones, so Jones himself acknowledged that for him playing the game of golf could never be quite the same. Jones, of course, had formally announced his retirement from championship golf in 1930, after he completed the unprecedented "Grand Slam", but it was at the inaugural US Masters in 1934 on that he became Augusta course that he became Augusta as he played the fifth hole: "On the next tee, the whirl of a movie camera made him stop in the middle of his backswing. Ordinarily, Jones could interrupt his downswing, so much in control as he kept the clubhouse. But, for the first time in memory, something outside that spotlight he was so used to had unsettled him. (Years ago, when a little girl had looked on from behind the gallery as Jones was almost at impact, he had been able to top his shot on purpose.)

"Jones readressed the ball meekly, and pushed his drive into the rough. He knew at that instant that something had gone out of his game, forever. Nothing so inconsequential had ever unsettled him before.

"It wasn't that Jones had lost his nerves. After all, he was only 32. To the contrary, he had found his nerves in the pit of his stomach, and with those trembling hands. But something was keeping him from making his nerves work for him instead of against him. In the high-wire act Jones was expected to perform at Augusta National, something was wrong. And that margin for error had nullified the genius that Jones had for golf. It had removed the element of

danger that he had been able to overcome in his inimitable fashion and that had separated him from every other golfer in championships, with the Grand Slam, Bobby Jones had gone into golf's fourth dimension. He had been to some uncharted moon and back. Now that he was earthbound again, he just could not perform. Men might hit longer and straighter shots, sink more putts, win more championships, even. In short, play better golf than Bobby Jones had. But nobody would ever play like him."

Price strove not to produce the official biography of Jones, the official history of the Augusta National Golf Club, or the official chronicle of the Masters tournaments. But he claims it is the authorized version of all three.

It is a story which is as entrancing as the Augusta National Golf Club, and one which at the same time examines the extraordinary career of Jones, then of how he came to devise Augusta and then the tragic circumstances of his last years.

I enjoyed Arnold Palmer's introduction in *Arnold Palmer's Complete Book of Putting* (Stanley Paul, £12.95), composed in conjunction with Peter Doherty. "All I ask is that if you come across a passage in the following pages that strikes you as utter nonsense, then blame Doherty. And when you read something that sparks with the dramatic gleam of a jewel of revelation, then give me the credit." That, of course, we must eventually conclude to be the handwriting of Doherty. The book is a fascinating and thoroughly entertaining insight into the game within a game and it is woven together by a supreme artist of the fairways in collaboration with an artist from the other side of the ropes.

Every picture tells a thousand words, and in *108 Holes* (Penguin, £12.95), the golf photographer Phil Sheldon, assisted with text by Dudley Doust, captures the first 108 holes of the phenomenal Spaniard's professional career. It is a superb portrait which, by changing words of Balzac and emphasizes the skills of the award-winning Sheldon.

year contract with Turnberry, using the famous Ailsa course. A final round of 75 earned Steve Jones, of the United States, a place in the 108-hole PGA qualifying tournament at La Quinta, California, on Monday. Jones finished 17 under par on 415.

He had rounds of 67, 65, 69, 67, 72 and 75, to win by four shots over Steve Elkington, of Australia, who scored an even-par 71 to finish with a six-day total of 419 - 13 under par.

The victory was worth \$15,000 (£10,700) to Jones. Elkington collected \$9,000 for finishing second.

A total of 53 players earned their playing cards for the 1987 PGA Tour by completing the tournament. The scores of 434 - two over par - or better over the six rounds.

Jones, who led or shared the lead in each of the six rounds, finished 136th on this year's PGA Tour official money list with \$51,473.

The leading earners from this year to form the 1987 PGA Tour.

Final scores: 415: S Jones; 418: S Elkington; 421: P Parkin; 422: S Farmer; 424: S Winters; 425: S Jones; 426: S Winters; 427: S Jones; 428: S Winters; 429: S Jones; 430: S Winters; 431: S Jones; 432: S Winters; 433: S Jones; 434: S Winters; 435: S Jones; 436: S Winters; 437: S Jones; 438: S Winters; 439: S Jones; 440: S Winters; 441: S Jones; 442: S Winters; 443: S Jones; 444: S Winters; 445: S Jones; 446: S Winters; 447: S Jones; 448: S Winters; 449: S Jones; 450: S Winters; 451: S Jones; 452: S Winters; 453: S Jones; 454: S Winters; 455: S Jones; 456: S Winters; 457: S Jones; 458: S Winters; 459: S Jones; 460: S Winters; 461: S Jones; 462: S Winters; 463: S Jones; 464: S Winters; 465: S Jones; 466: S Winters; 467: S Jones; 468: S Winters; 469: S Jones; 470: S Winters; 471: S Jones; 472: S Winters; 473: S Jones; 474: S Winters; 475: S Jones; 476: S Winters; 477: S Jones; 478: S Winters; 479: S Jones; 480: S Winters; 481: S Jones; 482: S Winters; 483: S Jones; 484: S Winters; 485: S Jones; 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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

The love that came with the post

● If Alex McCaff's *Love Letters* (BBC2, 9.35pm) carries any message at all — and I am not talking about the messages that pass to and from between the two central characters and give the film its raison d'être — it must surely be that you do better to be careful what you do with those old love letters you might have stuffed into the back of a drawer, tied up in ribbon. Fortunately for Betty (Lancashire lass) and Chuck (American lad), their correspondence fell into the caring hands of Desmond Wilcox and his team who make the current series of *The Visit*. One shudders to think what might have been made of them had they ended up in less sensitive hands. Even so, I was a trifle uncomfortable watching tonight's film, feeling as if I was reading someone else's private letters — which, of course I was. It

is no use pretending that Betty's letters to Chuck and his to her are either literary or romantic masterpieces. I suggest we should regard them as the only bridge across which an eventually hopeless love affair could cross during the Second World War. Betty and Chuck met only once — and then only briefly — at a GI's dance. He believed she was true only to him. She knew she had not been, but did not tell him. Eventually, both of them now much older and much wiser and much married, they are to meet again. Viewers' reactions to the reunion will, I suspect, be mixed. Either there will not be a dry eye in the house, or you will feel apprehensive about

what might come flying out when this particular Pandora's Box is opened in the presence of a not disinterested third party. ● *Breaking Up* (BBC2, 9.25pm), Nigel Williams four-part drama serial about a family that is doing precisely that, ends tonight. If you are expecting a happy ending, with all grey clouds dispersed, then you will not have been listening intelligently to what Williams has been trying to tell you for the past four weeks. Pain and anger and confusion have been the staples in *Breaking Up*, and the kind of cement that is going to be needed to put this smashed family back together again is not the sort that comes out of the Good Fairy's locker, even if — as happens somewhat conventionally tonight — the adhesive is applied against the background of a school's Christmas show with archangel in

attendance and plentiful supplies of seasonal good will. ● *Radio choice*: Tonight brings the last of Lord McCusker's 1986 Keith Lectures on the theme of law, justice, and democracy (Radio 4, 7.45pm). They have set so many fascinating fares running that I am glad to have the opportunity to study their courses in detail in *The Listener* every week. ● *Kaleidoscope Extra* (Radio 4, 4.45pm) is devoted to actors turned directors and, predictably enough, Simon Callow and Sheila Hancock oblige with their thoughts on the matter. Musical highlights: the all-Henze concert, recorded in Cologne, in September, with the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Singers and some fine soloists (on Radio 3, 7.30pm).

Peter Davalle



The Hull-based band, The Housemartins star in a *Hold Tight* Special (ITV, 4.45)

BBC 1

- 6.00 *Cee-fax* AM.
- 6.30 News headlines followed by *The Flintstones*. (r) 6.55 Weather.
- 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.40 *Watchdog* presented by John Stapleton. Viewers have the opportunity to question Mike Bett of British Telecom about the nation's telephone service. 8.55 Regional news and weather. 9.00 News.
- 9.05 *Day to Day*. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject. 9.45 *Advice Shop*. Margo MacDonald with supplementary benefit information. 10.00 News and weather. 10.05 *Neighbours*. (r)
- 10.25 *Philip Schofield* with children's programme news, and birthday greetings. 10.30 *Play School*. 10.50 *Penny's House*.
- 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Diana Quick with a thought for the day. 11.00 News and weather. 11.05 *Day Out* with Angela Rippon in the Vale of Taunton Deane. (r) 11.35 *Open Air*. Viewers voice their thoughts on television programmes (including news and weather) at 12.00.
- 12.25 *Domesday Detectives*. Team quiz competition on the subject of Britain. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Marylin Lewis. Weather. 1.25 *Neighbours*. Shane has had news. 1.50 *Little Misses*.
- 2.00 *Film: Lady With a Badge* (1991) starring Eileen Brennan and Pamela Roberts. A married couple move to a small Wyoming town where the wife is shocked by the corruption that is rife among the town's law enforcers. She decides to run for sheriff. Directed by Jud Taylor. 3.35 *Save a Life*. Dr Alan Mayron Taylor's

- emergency first aid series. (r) (Cee-fax).
- 3.50 *Penny's House*. 4.00 *Animal Fair*. 4.05 *The Adventures of Bullwinkle and Rocky*. Part five (r) 4.10 *Heathcliff and Co.* Cartoon adventures of an alley cat. 4.35 *Hardbeat*. Tony Hart's guide to the art of making pictures.
- 5.00 *Newsround* with Roger Finn. 5.05 *The Children of Green Knowe*. Episode three of the four-part drama based on the book by Lucy M Boston.
- 5.35 *Masterman* presented by Angela Rippon.
- 6.00 News with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. Weather. 6.30 *London Plus*.
- 6.35 *Wogan*. This evening's guests are Jonathan and David Dimbleby, Patrick Malahide, and the star of the Royal Variety Show, Victor Borge.
- 7.35 *The Clothes Show*. Selma Scott goes shopping for a party dress; Jeff Banks selects last minute gifts; and Jane Lomas investigates the cut-throat business of fashion design. (r)
- 8.00 *Dallas*. News of Jenna's condition shakes both Pam and Bobby (Cee-fax).
- 8.50 *Points of View*. With Barry Took.
- 9.00 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 9.05 News with Julia Somerville and John Humphrys. Regional news and weather.
- 9.35 *The Visit*. Betty Allen visits New Mexico to see the man she first met at a GI dance 40 years ago. (Cee-fax) (see Choice).
- 10.25 *Sportsnight* introduced by Steve Rider. Coverage of the Guinness Soccer Six indoor football tournament from Manchester; highlights from the match played in Dubai between Celtic and Liverpool; and the final of the Masters International Tennis Tournament in New York.
- 12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

- 8.00 *Cee-fax*.
- 12.30 *Design and Innovation*. An Open University production examining developments in train travel. 12.55 *Cee-fax*.
- 2.00 News and weather.
- 2.02 *Sports Afternoon*. Highlights of the final of the 1986 Masters Tennis Tournament in New York; and the Guinness Soccer Six indoor football tournament from Manchester. (including news and weather at 3.00)
- 3.50 National and regional news, and weather.
- 4.00 *Pamela Armstrong*. This afternoon's guests are John Timpon, John Humphrys, Jilly Cooper and Jane Lapotnik.
- 4.30 *Global Report: The Kerala Solution*. Peter Adamson meets young mothers from a village in the polemic Indian state of Kerala and discovers why they decided to be sterilized. (r)
- 5.00 *News at Five*. A report of the programme shown at 12.25 on BBC 1.
- 5.30 *News at Five* presented by Colin MacCabe. Two biographies of Frank Sinatra — *My Father* by John Sinatru, which was published with the blessing of Ole Blue Eyes, and *His Way*, by Kitty Kelley, which he tried to sue. (Cee-fax).
- 5.35 *Spoke*. Milligan talks about his *Goodbye Soldier!* and John Rangel's book on the CIA. *The Agency* is reviewed.
- 6.00 *Film: Gentleman* (1932) starring Clark Gable. The remaining band of Apache warriors surrender to the United States Cavalry when promised land and food, but an unscrupulous government agent cheats them of their rights. Gable then decides to fight the might of the US Cavalry with his 50 men. Directed by Arnold Laven.
- 7.40 *The Pasadena Roof Orchestra* play music from the dance band days. (r)
- 8.30 *Out of Context* includes the case of ex-politician John Bogg who is challenging the by-laws on trespass and use of land around military, especially United States, bases in Britain to show the illegality of their application.
- 9.00 *A 1941 Hawkeye's* and Trapper's altruistic gesture of help to re-shape the protocols of a soldier is treated with suspicion by Hotlips and Frank. (r)
- 9.25 *Breaking Up*. The final episode of the drama serial about the effect the acrimonious divorce of his parents has on their son. (see Choice).
- 10.15 *Divided Cities of Marble*. The story of the 1982 Anglo-Norwegian expedition to Norway's Lofoten Islands, fed by a glacier river but with no known outlet.
- 10.45 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 10.50 *Newsnight* 11.35 Weather.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.15 *TV-am: Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Kaye. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; financial news at 8.35; sports at 8.40 and 7.40; cartoon at 7.25; pop music at 7.55; and video review at 8.25. After Nine includes guest Tony Adams; a discussion on incest; and, at 9.17, exercises.
- 9.25 *Thames news headlines* followed by *Beyond 2000*. The latest technology developments that will see us to the 21st century. 10.15 *Wild World of Animals*. Bobcats. 10.40 *Dangertrucks*. The world of the stunt artists. 11.35 *Fabulous Futures*.
- 12.00 *The Giddy Game Show*. (r) 12.10 *Our Backyard*. 12.30 *Spin Off*. Tim Brooke-Taylor continues his exploration of interesting places made more accessible by the M25 orbital motorway.
- 1.00 *News at One* with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 *Thames news*.
- 1.30 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama serial set in a remote outback town in Australia. Today, Simon is worried about the responsibilities of fatherhood. 2.30 *Farmhouse Kitchen*. Grace Mulligan and her guest, Josephine Dimbleby, prepare Christmas fare including roast goose, spiced with cinnamon and packed with nuts and fruit.
- 3.00 *Take the High Road*. Someone picks up courage to have a go at David Sneddon. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*.
- 4.00 *Thames the Tank Engine and Friends*, narrated by Ringo Starr. 4.10 *The Tube*. 4.20 *W.A.L.L.E.* David Bailey's nature series. Today he is with children from Cussey Junior School in County Durham and offers himself as a meal for a leech; meets a four-legged minor; and is doused in an unusual bath.
- 4.30 *Out of Context* includes the case of ex-politician John Bogg who is challenging the by-laws on trespass and use of land around military, especially United States, bases in Britain to show the illegality of their application.
- 9.00 *A 1941 Hawkeye's* and Trapper's altruistic gesture of help to re-shape the protocols of a soldier is treated with suspicion by Hotlips and Frank. (r)
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- 10.45 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 10.50 *Newsnight* 11.35 Weather.

CHANNEL 4

- 1.45 *Ther Lorde's House*. (r)
- 2.00 *Snooker*. Quarterfinal action in the Holfmeister World Doubles.
- 4.00 *Mavis on 4*. In this week's *Predicaments* programme Mavis Nicholson examines the problem of coping with a senile relation who has become unrecognizable from the person once loved, and talks to people who are having to come to terms with the situation.
- 4.30 *Countdown*. Yesterday's winner challenged by Paul Vates, a drama student.
- 5.00 *Silents Please*. A condensed version of *Lilac Time* in which Gary Cooper plays a First World War pilot who falls in love with a French girl. He is shot down and the girl, believing him killed, resigns herself to a lifetime of loneliness.
- 5.30 *Hogan's Heroes*. Vintage American comedy series about a group of resourceful Allied prisoners-of-war.
- 6.00 *The Abbott and Costello Show*. Bud and Lou are forced to paper one of their landlord's apartments when they fall behind with the rent.
- 6.30 *In Time of War 1939-1945: The New World Order*. Murray Sayle presents excerpts from a film about the future of British imperialism; and a debate on What to do with Germany? (Oracle)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Peter Sissons and Beatrice Hollyer includes a report on the Nuclear Inspectorate's investigations into safety at the Sellafield plant, due to be published tomorrow.
- 7.50 *Comment*. This week's political slot is filled by Stephen Ross, the Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight. Weather.
- 8.00 *Hambling discusses her approach to portraiture*. (r) (Oracle)
- 8.30 *The New Enlightenment*. In this penultimate programme of the series Professor Kenneth Minogue warns of governments bearing gifts.
- 9.00 *Down the Line*. This month's edition of the magazine programme from Scotland includes an investigation into the hazards of dismantling nuclear power stations; a preview of the rite reform bill; and why remote communities in Scotland have better travelling theatre facilities than their English counterparts.
- 9.30 *Film: Close to the Wind* (1989) starring Per Oskarsson and Barbel Oskarsson. A drama about a non-conformist artist, at odds with society, who wins a competition to design and paint a mural for a local company. His initial election gives way to frustration when the board of directors balks at the pornographic aspects of the painting and demand modifications. Directed by Stellan Oskarsson.
- 12.05 *Ther Lorde's House*. Ends at 12.20.

VARIATIONS

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SPORT

Hint of three-year ban on English return to Europe

From David Miller, Zurich

There was good news and bad news here yesterday at the headquarters of FIFA, Joao Havelange, the president, said there was no possibility of Britain losing the separate identities of their four associations. But Jacques Georges, president of UEFA, said he thought it was unlikely there could be a return to European competition of English clubs within two years, never mind next season.

The two leaders of football were attending, with many other international figures, the premiere of *Hero*, the official film of the World Cup in Mexico last summer, by Worldmark, who produced *G'ole* in 1982 in Spain. Havelange was responding to the controversial allegation made recently by Harry Cavan, of Northern Ireland, vice-president of FIFA, that the home associations were likely to be forced to amalgamate.

"Apart from football considerations, I am a lawyer, and the British associations have a legal right to retain their separate membership," Havelange said. "Their membership goes back 80 years, they were themselves founded before FIFA, and we have no intention of taking away what was given to them as a right as individual associations."

This is encouraging. Ted Crocker and Ernest Walker, the respective secretaries of the English and Scottish FAs, were quick to denounce Cavan's remarks at the time, as were the Irish FA.

Havelange yesterday went further in his support, saying it had been supposed when he became president that he would disband the international board. This governs the laws and Britain shares equal power in decision-making with FIFA. Yet Havelange said he recognized Britain's contribution and the international board had become stronger, not weaker.

The commission which is to review and revise FIFA statutes recently began its work. It will look at the position of the British, following the proposal made at the congress in Mexico last summer, by Guinea and others, that Britain should be reduced to a single vote. This proposal was withdrawn.

All the continental confederations and member associations will be asked to give their opinion on Britain's individual memberships. Undoubtedly the Third World, and the Eastern Europeans, will be antagonistic. But when I asked Havelange whether it was possible that Britain would be made to field a single team in World Cup com-

petition, he replied that he thought it unlikely. It must be hoped his expectation is soundly based.

Georges said, sympathetic though he was to the English situation, that it was his opinion and also that of the committee of UEFA, that the 1987-88 season would be too soon to re-admit clubs from the Football League. He thought it might be two or three years.

"What is necessary, above all, is for the British Government to introduce legislation that prevents your violent spectators from travelling to the Continent," he said. This, of course, is the conundrum of the controversy over England's exclusion, because Mrs Thatcher repeatedly says there is no constitutional power to institute such prohibitions.

It was agreed by both Georges and Havelange, the secretary of UEFA, that the English case would strengthen if there was seen to be stability at English matches. "But what is stability?" Bangerter asked. UEFA concedes there is violence elsewhere in Europe at football matches, but it is not violence with a licence and inclination to travel.

A review of *Hero* will be appearing shortly.

Cooper the key to Rangers' survival

By Hugh Taylor

Rangers will embark tonight on their most demanding engagement since the arrival of Graeme Souness brought visions of a return to the old glory days at Ibrox.

Having arrived in West Germany clutching at the slimmest of lifelines to survival in the UEFA Cup, a 1-1 draw at home, they face Borussia Mönchengladbach who have an outstanding European record at the Bokalberg stadium.

Knowing that a 0-0 draw would see them into the quarter-finals, the Germans can dictate how this match is to be played. While their coach, Jupp Heynckes, smiles and says that his team will concentrate on attack because he feels his supporters expect more than a lacklustre draw, the proficient Borussia, as Rangers know, have few superiors in the art of varying styles of play. Indeed, they beat Real Madrid 5-1 last season.

But style is also much on the mind of Rangers. Their elegant, leisurely approach had been thought to be ideal for European competition but re-

cently the rhythm has vanished and Rangers have lost the harmony which brings consistency.

As there is a belief at Ibrox that Borussia, especially with Drenth suspended, may be suspect in the air, there is likely to be a more vigorous approach tonight in the hope that the powerful West, aided by the equally robust Butcher, will take advantage of the high crosses which must be favoured by Cooper, the outstanding winger in Europe, if Rangers are to score the vital goal.

However, even if Souness declares himself fit to play and the player-manager will not decide until nearer the kick-off and Ferguson passes a late fitness test, the odds are stacked against Rangers.

Although Borussia's pride was hurt when a run of 14 unbeaten games ended with a 2-0 defeat at Nuremberg at the weekend, Rangers have been told by their manager that their opponents will be all the more eager to win and go forward in Europe.

Injuries to key men threaten United

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Split

The key to Dundee United's progress in the UEFA Cup lies in the hands of their own physiotherapist. If Jim McLean was able to select his strongest side against Hajduk Split here tonight, they would protect their 2-0 lead and reach the last eight.

But the lone certainty about the second leg is that United will be depleted, and perhaps severely. Worse still, the band of possible absentees happens to include almost all of their experienced representatives. Hegarty, who missed the first game at Tannadice Park a fortnight ago, has already been ruled out.

Sturrock, who created both of United's goals in spite of a damaged toe, has strained a tendon. Malpas has injured a hamstring. Bannan was unavailable for the last two games and Clark, Hegarty's understudy who scored the potentially decisive second goal, limped off on Saturday with ankle trouble.

McLean is left with only two players who are both fit and accustomed to performing in Europe. Yet Narey has himself recently returned from injury and Milne is, according to his manager, "in a rut, having been at the club for nine years, and is out of form."

Apart from all that, United have another reason for fearing their eventual fate in the arena that sits on the shores of the Adriatic. In the 21 UEFA Cup-ties that have been staged there, Hajduk have never failed to win. On all but six occasions, they have triumphed by at least two goals.

United do not need to equal the feats of Tottenham Hotspur, in 1967, Atlético Madrid, in 1976, Vejle, 1979, or Dynamo Moscow, 1984, who are the only foreign clubs to have beaten Hajduk at home. But McLean, in admitting that "we have to score" recognizes that his defence is unlikely to remain unbroken.

In Deveric and Bursac, the Yugoslavs are armed with two predators notable for their speed. At Tannadice, after an uninspired opening hour, the pair suggested that they could yet penetrate the hopes of United, the club that is carrying Britain's most realistic chances of competing in Europe next year.

Hajduk, inhibited and cautious, were disappointing two weeks ago. "But I don't mind playing against disappointing teams," McLean said.

In their own home, which accommodates 55,000 people, the Yugoslavs are sure to be more convincing, even though their domestic League position confirms that they, like United, are not touching the heights.

Their stadium is shaped like a huge clam but, rather than resembling a protected crustacean, the Yugoslavs will remain true to their name. Hajduk means a bandit who strikes rapidly. In doing so, they could expose themselves dangerously to United's own counter-attacks.



Striking away: Oxford scrum half Roberts emerges from a scrum minus a shirt from the resultant penalty. Oxford took the lead. (Photo: Ian Stewart)

Johnson kicks Oxford to victory

Oxford University 15
Cambridge University 10

Ashley Johnson coolly dropped his second goal of the match two minutes from time to complete Oxford's second successive victory in the University match at Twickenham yesterday.

The crucial score by the Dark Blues stand-off doubled in one match his previous scoring efforts for the side this season.

His other success was another dropped goal in Oxford's only previous victory this season by 18-12 against Northampton - his home town club for whom his

father Andy used to play at hooker.

Johnson, who played for England Students against Japan earlier this season, landed his first spot kick in the 19th minute to open the scoring for Oxford after the unfavourable Cambridge side had gone ahead with a splendid try by Chris Oti 10 minutes earlier.

Johnson's vital kick came after Cambridge, with some spirited late running, had pulled back to 12-10 as Mark Thomas kicked a penalty from in front of the posts with five minutes left.

Oxford counter-attacked energetically, won a ruck inside the 22 and Johnson,

collecting a pass from his scrum half, Simon Roberts, did the rest.

Oxford, who had had pre-match coaching from the Australian master Alan Jones, were given a real fight by the committed Cambridge pack and had to compete for every bit of useful possession.

The full back John Risman, son of the celebrated England international Bev, proved a key figure, kicking three penalties out of four - two in a vital second-half spell - and making a crashing tackle on Oti, who was seeming a second try from a run in the 65th minute.

His opposite number Thomas, also the son of a

famous father - the Welsh international Clem Thomas - had a rather more unsettling time and missed three kicks before his straightforward penalty near the end.

The Cambridge try was a classy affair, set up by scrum half Andy Cushing with a kick ahead. From a ruck Cushing sent the ball out to Tim Lord, who passed to Kelvin Wyles, and Thomas came into the line to send Oti streaking through.

Cambridge's other score came when Wyles scraped over a low dropped goal to put his side 7-6 ahead, a lead they enjoyed until Risman kicked

his second penalty soon after half time.

Johnson said afterwards: "I knew with the second chance that there were men outside me, but I reckoned a certain three points was better than risking the chance of running the ball against a defence who had tackled well all afternoon."

The Cambridge captain, Fran Clough, said: "We missed a couple of crucial penalties, but I must say Oxford did not have much to offer in terms of attacking rugby."

OXFORD: Penalties: Risman (3), Drop goals: Johnson (2), Cambridge: Try: Oti, Penalty: Thomas, Drop goal: Wyles.

FOOTBALL

Valley Parade set for a full house

The reopening of Bradford City's Valley Parade ground on Sunday looks sure to be a sell-out. Already 12,000 tickets have been sold and club officials are confident of a capacity crowd of 15,500 for the official opening and the Bradford versus England showpiece match.

Bradford have spent £2.6 million rebuilding after the blaze which claimed 55 lives 18 months ago. A purpose-built 5,000 seater stand has gone up on the site of the old stand but Bradford have also added a new 7,000 capacity Kop.

The England XI will be managed by Bobby Robson and the Bradford manager, Trevor Cherry, has two of City's best known former players back to boost his side. They are the club's all-time top scorer, Bobby Campbell, who is now at Wigan Athletic, and Peter Jackson, now at Newcastle United.

The Portsmouth forward, Nicky Morgan, has agreed to join the second division club, Stoke City, in a £40,000 deal. Morgan has been on loan at Stoke and decided to move north after terms between the club had been fixed.

The former West Ham United forward was Portsmouth's leading scorer with 15 goals last season but has played in only four matches this season.

● The Leicester City director,

Tom Bloor, has resigned after 12 years on the board.

● Crystal Palace, who have been forced to switch their FA Cup third round home tie with Nottingham Forest to Sunday January 11 because the club with whom they share their ground, Charlton Athletic, are at home in the Cup the previous day, have fixed the kick-off for 3.0. The decision means the game will clash with the televised game between Luton Town and Liverpool.

● Lloyd McGrath, Coventry City's England under 21 mid-field player, is to see a specialist about the knee injury which caused him to limp out of last Saturday's match against Leicester City. The club's chief coach, John Sillett, said: "He has taken a few knocks on it this season and the latest one has aggravated the injury."

● The Celtic midfielder player, Ronnie Coyle, joined Middlesbrough on a month's loan yesterday with a view to a permanent transfer. The Middlesbrough manager, Bruce Rioch, said a decision would be made on the future of Coyle, aged 21, after a month's loan.

● Gates in the GM Vauxhall Conference have soared this season, boosted by the prospect of the top club gaining admittance to the Football League. Overall attendances are up by 15 per cent.

CRICKET

Richards may sign for league club

Vivian Richards, the world's greatest batsman and captain of the West Indies, may be playing Lancashire League cricket next season.

Rishton's chairman, Wilf Woodhouse, who was responsible for getting Michael Holding in the West Indies Test bowler, to spend one season with Rishton four years ago, said: "There's a good chance Richards will be playing for us. We have actually agreed terms with him and if he doesn't play county cricket, which he wants to do, there's every chance he will come to Rishton."

"We have met his agent and he is highly delighted with our set up. We expect a decision before Christmas."

Richards leaves for Australia on Boxing Day and it is understood he wants his future finalized out by then.

Parker's benefit

Sussex County Cricket Club's longest-serving player, Paul Parker, has been awarded a benefit in 1988. Parker, aged 29, made his debut in 1976 and received his county cap three years later. He appeared in one Test match for England, against Australia at the Oval in 1981. He has reached 1,000 runs in a season on seven occasions and, last summer, was the county's top scorer with 1,459 championship runs at an average of 41.68.

Under orders

Roland Lee has withdrawn from Britain's swimming team for this weekend's European Cup in Malmö, Sweden. The City of Cardiff freestyler, one of five from whom the 4 x 100 metres relay team was to be chosen, is attending a course at Sandhurst as he hopes to join the Army.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan 'dazed' by crowd cut order

By Keith Macklin

Wigan, the biggest crowd-pullers in the game, have been staggered by an order from the local council to cut their ground capacity from 30,000 to 12,000 under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act.

The Wigan secretary, Mary Charnock, said club directors were "shocked and depressed" when they were told yesterday of the decision made by the council's public protection committee. The cause is a number of allegedly defective crush barriers at the Central Park ground.

The club at least had a measure of consolation when yesterday, Ellery Hanley, the highest-priced and best-paid British player in the game, met chairman Jack Hilton for talks, and agreed to withdraw his transfer request. Hanley, who was priced at £150,000 when he moved to Wigan from Bradford Northern two years ago, will be available for the John Player Special Trophy quarter-final game against Leigh next Sunday.

But the decision to reduce capacity, which takes immediate effect, brings confusion to a match at which 15,000 are expected. "We don't know yet whether to make the match all-ticket," said the Wigan secretary. "We are still in a bit of a daze." She added that contractors' estimates of the cost of replacing the defective

barriers could be as high as a quarter of a million pounds, with £150,000 the minimum outlay.

Wigan's success over the past seasons has been based largely on their big crowds, which allow them to pay for stars like the Australian captain, Wally Lewis, Hanley, and several Springbok internationals. They have used the money for ground development, including a new grandstand, floodlights and electronic scoreboard.

The club are in a Catch-22 position: they need money to renovate the crush barriers, and are unable to draw the crowd to gain this. Cutting off of major sources of income at the gates will prove a stumbling block to further development.

Already this season Wigan have drawn 30,000 for the club game against the Australians, 26,000 for the Lancashire Cup game with St Helens, and 21,000 for the Great Britain-Australia international match. They were unlucky in that the local council have sprung this shock in mid-season. Other clubs were warned before the start of the season that improvements were necessary. The chairman of the public protection committee, Ron Capstick, said the decision had been taken "in the safety interest of supporters".

SNOOKER

Last year's finalists lose shine

By Sydney Friskin

Ray Reardon and Tony Jones, last year's runners-up, were beaten 5-2 by Kirk Stevens and John Virgo, who put themselves in the final of the Hovmeyer world doubles championship at Northampton yesterday.

Reardon, wearing an eyeshade as a protection from the lighting which hinders his vision, slightly out-shone his partner who did not have one of his best days.

Stevens and Virgo, though not being particularly brilliant, set out diligently on a task of consolidation and thoroughly deserved their victory. Virgo, who has not won a title for seven years, gave his partner ample support.

After Stevens and Virgo had won the first frame, Reardon made a great effort to save the second, taking the last red and clearing the colours up to the spot. He played a safety shot on the black which was eventually left by Jones for Stevens who took it and put his side two frames up.

Reardon restored the match to an even keel with another splendid effort on the last three colours after Stevens had failed to come out of a snooker. Reardon fired home a long blue and took pink and black to level at 2-2.

Stronger cumulative powers enabled Stevens and Virgo to go 4-2 ahead. Stevens doing more of the scoring, particularly in the sixth frame which he started with a break of 34. Reardon had a good chance in the fifth frame but after taking the green, brown and blue, stumbled over the pink and Virgo cashed in.

Jones, sensing trouble, started the seventh frame in high gear but the advantage he seized was almost cancelled out by Stevens who ended a break of 34 with an unfortunately in-off after potting the green.

Reardon was unable to capitalize and Virgo had his chance of finishing the match only to fail with an easy blue and let in Jones who in turn missed the shot on the pink which Stevens potted to save the match.

● Stevens, who has never won a major title said: "It's helped playing doubles, because I have not won many games this season. I would love to win here because this is still a world title."

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: K. Stevens (Carl) and J. Virgo (Eng) beat R. Reardon (Wls) and T. Jones (Eng) 5-2. Frame scores: Stevens and Virgo 15-11, 69-54, 15-74, 39-50, 70-56, 61-8, 60-52. Monday's fourth round: J. White (Eng) and A. Higgins (Wls) beat B. Williams (Eng) and S. Higgins (Wls) 5-2. Frame scores: White and Higgins 91-23, 70-72, 87-35, 66-1, 66-5, 75-51.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Vintage event

The French Open Real Tennis Championships begin today in Bordeaux where the event has, for the first time, attracted a sponsor - Château Cos d'Estournel vineyards. Wayne Davies, an Australian professional with the New York Racquet & Tennis Club, defends his title against Chris Ronaldson, the world champion, Lachlan Deuchar, the British and Australian Open champion.

Coming West

Oskana Omelyanchik, of the Soviet Union, who won the overall gold medal at the 1985 World gymnastics championships in Montreal, makes her first appearance in the West since then at the Kraft International at Wembley Arena.

Quick win

The World Boxing Association cruiserweight champion, Evander Holyfield of the United States, beat his fellow American, Mike Brothers, in Paris in the third-round.

Laing's chance

Tony Laing, the British light-welterweight champion, will meet West Germany's Tony Habermayer for the vacant European title in London on January 21. If Laing, from Nottingham, is successful, his first defence will be against Terry Marsh, of Basildon, the former champion.

Handwritten signature or mark.